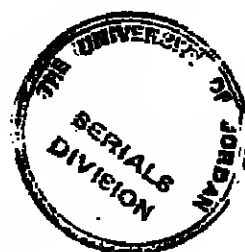


## 'Iran oil passes through Israeli line'

NICOSIA (AP) — Reports that Iranian oil is being pumped through Israel's pipeline from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean are "becoming more detailed and credible," the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday. Tehran has repeatedly denied reports that it is using the pipeline from Eilat, on the Gulf of Aqaba, to Ashkelon on Israel's Mediterranean coast. The respected oil industry newsletter, published in Nicosia, said that the "modest volumes" of Iranian crude reportedly being transported by the Israelis were destined mainly for Romania. It also said that the shipments were being handled by international brokers, not by the state-run National Oil Company. In its Sept. 6 edition, MEES quoted Mohammad Mi'bid, chairman of Egypt's Suez Canal, as saying that Iranian officials told him that Tehran still owned a 50 per cent share in the Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline. It was built during the reign of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. But the newsletter said Mr. Mi'bid could not confirm industry speculation that Iran had been using the pipeline itself. Iran uses the Egyptian pipeline to get its oil to Mediterranean markets. Tehran has denied recent Egyptian press reports that it had bought weapons from Israel with crude shipped through the Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة



## Japan pledges \$200m to Palestinians

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Japan will extend some \$200 million in aid to the Palestinians over two years to support the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace agreement, Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told the United Nations Monday. Mr. Hosokawa made the announcement to the United Nations General Assembly during his first overseas trip since taking office in August. Mr. Hosokawa welcomed the signing of a Palestinian pact with Israel on Sept. 13 which calls for limited self-rule for the nearly two million Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories. "It is essential that the international community support this agreement actively and promptly in order to achieve peace in the region. Japan will continue to play a constructive role in the ... negotiations that are part of the peace process," he said. Mr. Hosokawa said the assistance would include grant aid for food and medicine and concessional loans for infrastructure. A conference aimed at raising \$3 billion to support the Israeli-PLO pact will take place in Washington on Oct. 1. The World Bank has estimated this is the amount needed over 10 years to support the plan for Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The United States has said its share would be a two-year package worth \$250 million.

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## Norway to host refugee talks

OSLO (R) — Norway will play host to a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian experts this week to discuss ways of easing refugee problems in the Middle East, the foreign ministry said on Monday. Norway secretly brokered a historic peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in at least 14 rounds of negotiations in Norway this year. The new talks, on Tuesday and Wednesday, would follow up publicly-known talks in Oslo in May on refugee issues. This week's talks would focus on issues including differences in income for refugees and non-refugees in the Middle East, problems for women and a need to collect more data on refugees, the foreign ministry said in a statement.

## Iraq ready to free Kuwaitis

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq has told a senior Chinese official it is willing to free Kuwaiti captives during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, a newspaper reported Monday. The Chinese had passed on the comments, made by an Iraqi Foreign Ministry official to China's deputy foreign minister during a meeting, to Kuwait, Al-Sayes newspaper said. Kuwait considers the issue of missing Kuwaitis as the most important legacy of the Gulf crisis. "I met the undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry who told Iraq is ready to release the Kuwaiti prisoners of war," Kuwaiti officials currently visiting Beijing, quoted the Chinese deputy minister as telling them.

## 20,000 apply to join police force

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Twenty thousand Palestinians applied to join the autonomy police force in the first four days of a week-long recruitment drive, officials said Monday. The campaign has been brought to an early end in the Gaza Strip where 11,000 men and women have signed up for a job with the "national police" which will ensure order during autonomous rule. Since the recruitment offices opened Thursday, another 12,000 have put their names down on the West Bank. The force is to include only 12,000 from all the occupied territories — about 1,000 of them women — and be boosted by Palestinians from abroad. Israel's military radio reported Monday that Islamic fundamentalists and Palestinian hardliners opposed to the autonomy plan, which starts in Jericho and Gaza on Oct. 13, were trying to infiltrate the force.

## UAE in touch with Iran over ship

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has contacted Iran about a possible cause of pollution that killed thousands of fish in the UAE last week, the semi-official daily Emirates News said Monday. The Captain Zakharov, a container vessel that had been destined for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, caught fire and sank in early July off the Iranian coast near the Lavan oil terminal, the paper said. "The vessel was said to be carrying a heavy load of corroded material that could cause serious pollution," it said.

## Rabin to visit China

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Yitzhak Rabin will make the first visit to China by an Israeli prime minister from Oct. 10, officials said Monday. "It will mark a turning-point in the relationship between the two countries," Rabin spokesman Gad Beor Ari told AFP. Israel and China restored diplomatic relations on Jan. 24, 1992. After a 40-year break and the autonomy agreement with the Palestinians is expected to boost ties. "The visit is important. China is a giant in Asia and a very big market," Mr. Ben Ari said.

# Rebels take Sukhumi; Shevardnadze in hiding

Combined agency dispatches

TBILISI, Georgia — After 12 days of intense fighting, Abkhazian separatists captured the key Georgian city of Sukhumi on Monday, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who led the failed government defence, admitted defeat and was in hiding.

Abkhazian forces fought their way downtown and raised their flag over city hall, keeping reinforcement troops sent by the government trapped on the devastated city's outskirts.

Mr. Shevardnadze, whose whereabouts were not known, sent a message to his office in the capital Tbilisi that the city had fallen. The Abkhazian press service in Moscow said he was in hiding in the town of Gulripsh, 15 kilometres from Sukhumi, but the report could not be confirmed independently.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered the defence ministry to give "maximum" assistance to get Mr. Shevardnadze safely out of Abkhazia, Russian officials said Monday.

More than 3,000 people have been killed since the region's nationalist leaders declared sovereignty a year ago, and over 100,000 have been homeless by the fighting.

Under the terms of a Russian-brokered peace plan in July, Georgia had withdrawn more than 80 per cent of its troops and equipment from

Sukhumi, leaving it vulnerable when Abkhazians attacked on Sept. 16.

The fall of Sukhumi was tantamount to the loss of the Abkhazian province and a sharp political blow to Mr. Shevardnadze, who personally led Georgian troops in the bloody ethnic war.

"God is my witness. I did everything I could," Mr. Shevardnadze said in a statement released by the Georgian parliament's press service.

Interfax news agency said the Georgian leader had set up headquarters in Gulripsh, but he remained trapped by Abkhazian troops controlling roads north and south.

"The attackers of Sukhumi killed hundreds of inhabitants of the city," Mr. Shevardnadze's statement said. "They destroyed and burned houses and the people remaining are in danger."

Russian naval vessels of the Black Sea fleet evacuated a further 7,500 refugees from Sukhumi on Monday and sources close to the fleet command told Interfax that the only remaining way to get Mr. Shevardnadze out of the conflict zone was by sea.

But a spokesman for Mr. Shevardnadze, quoted by ITAR-TASS, said the Georgian leader had "categorically refused" an offer from Mr. Yeltsin to evacuate him to a "safe place."

The spokesman, who was

not named, said the Georgian leader intended to remain near Sukhumi to oversee the evacuation of refugees.

Mr. Shevardnadze said Sukhumi had been stormed by "mercenaries" from Russia, the Caucasus republic of Chechnya and Abkhazia and said outside forces had "played the card of treason" against him, leading to the city's capture.

He admitted that as the situation grew worse for Georgian troops in Sukhumi, he had offered to negotiate with Russia on Georgia's entry into the Commonwealth of Independent States and had scrambled to make other concessions to keep Sukhumi in Georgian hands.

"Georgia was practically on its knees, but even this was not enough" for Russia, Mr. Shevardnadze's statement said.

Russian military authorities said there remained small pockets of Georgian resistance in the city but indicated these were doing nothing more than providing desperate cover for fleeing Georgian troops.

The Abkhazian flag was hoisted over the main government building in Sukhumi that Mr. Shevardnadze had used as a command post for the past 11 days, Russian military sources said, according to ITAR-TASS.

The fall of Sukhumi dealt

(Continued on page 5)



A Georgian assists people to get into a boat which will take them to safety. Thousands of people have fled the embattled Sukhumi which the Abkhazians want to make their capital (AFP photo)

## PLO to name new peace negotiators

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has named a new delegation to the Middle East peace talks, Palestinian officials said Monday.

Prior to the agreement, Israel had refused to talk directly with any member of the PLO. All members of the delegation were from the occupied territories, although they reported directly to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis.

Now, Mr. Arafat plans a new delegation of working groups to negotiate with Israel the terms of Palestinian autonomy, which will initially be implemented in the West Bank town of Jericho and the occupied Gaza Strip.

"The delegation has a structure that has finished its job," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the team. "Now it is an individual question of whether each delegate can fit into different working

groups."

Haider Abdul Shafi, head of the first Palestinian delegation, said the agreement has led him to refuse any role in its execution.

Dr. Abdul Shafi criticised the accord, saying that it did not include Israel's admission that "it was an occupying power" or a clear Israeli promise to uproot settlements in the Palestinian autonomous areas.

Azmi Shuahi, a senior advisor to the original delegation, said the Palestine Central Council would ratify both the agreement and the appointments at its meeting in Tunis next week.

Two committees will be set up, "one to discuss Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the second to negotiate handing over education, health, social welfare, direct taxes and tourism," said Mr. Shuahi, who is a member of the council.

The PLO will also appoint members to a Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee that will deal with security

(Continued on page 5)

## Yeltsin says no deal over polls

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin ruled out compromise Monday with his hardline opponents, saying he would not accept calls for simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections to end Russia's political crisis.

Speaking on national television, Mr. Yeltsin insisted on sticking to his plan for parliamentary elections in December, with presidential elections six months later. Some of his opponents and some moderates had suggested simultaneous elections to end the crisis.

"No," Mr. Yeltsin declared. "I won't have such a compromise."

Demoralised lawmakers holding parliament appealed Monday to the Russian armed forces to revolt and oust Mr. Yeltsin, but their support continued to dwindle as the military stood firm behind the president.

A top parliament supporter denied reports Monday that he was preparing to switch sides to Mr. Yeltsin, Viktor Baran-

nikov, who was named security minister by parliament, told supporters he would not defect.

Gen. Barannikov, who was named security minister by Russia's renegade parliament, was quoted by the ITAR-TASS news agency as saying late Sunday that he had no intention of "accepting this post of pseudo-minister" and "was and remained loyal to the Russian president."

The general had reportedly given these assurances to Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, but according to Interfax, Gen. Barannikov said talks Sunday with the prime minister were aimed at guaranteeing supplies of water, electricity, food and phone lines for the parliament.

When asked if he had pledged allegiance to Mr. Yeltsin, as reported earlier Monday, Gen. Barannikov replied that the proposition had been put to him. Interfax added:

"I replied that I was not able to decide on my own, that I still had colleagues for whom I was fulfilling my duty of defending the White House."

(Continued on page 5)

## Clinton sees global role, pledges to stem arms spread

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — President Bill Clinton on Monday promised that the United States would remain engaged in world affairs despite a focus on domestic renewal, and laid out a new policy for controlling the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

"Domestic renewal is an overdue tonic but isolationism and protectionism are still poison," he said in his first speech to the United Nations General Assembly.

Saying the post cold war era provided new opportunities, he outlined a plan of new steps to control nuclear proliferation.

"We will press for an international agreement that would ban production" of "growing global stockpiles of plutonium and highly-enriched uranium" which are raising the danger of nuclear terrorism for all countries," he said.

Mr. Clinton also renewed his appeal for strict adherence to the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing, "in the face of disturbing signs."

He did not mention any particular country, but Mr. Clinton appeared to be referring to China, which U.S. intelligence reports say is near setting off a new underground explosion.

"One of our most urgent priorities must be attacking the proliferation of methods of mass destruction, whether they are nuclear, chemical or biological," Mr. Clinton said.

The president also pledged to ensure that the Libyans suspected of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Scotland in 1988 killing 270 people were brought to trial.

"My government is determined to see that such terrorists are brought to justice," Mr. Clinton said (see page 10).

Mr. Clinton devoted much of his speech to reviewing the role of the United Nations in the post-cold war world, and the part the United States would play.

"As we all now know the end of the cold war did not bring us the millennium of peace," Mr. Clinton said. "Indeed, it removed the lid from

many cauldrons of ethnic, religious and territorial animosity.

"The United States intends to remain engaged and to lead. We cannot solve every problem. But the United States must and will serve as a fulcrum for change and a pivot point for peace."

Mr. Clinton praised the U.N. peacekeeping efforts in Cambodia, Somalia, Bosnia and elsewhere but called for an overhaul of their organisation and funding.

In Bosnia, U.N. forces had "maintained a valiant humanitarian effort," and Washington would be willing to take part in international peacekeeping efforts if a viable peace accord were reached, Mr. Clinton said.

In Somalia, the world had seen a "stunning humanitarian rescue" which had saved "literally hundreds of thousands of lives" and brought stability to most of the country.

U.N. peacekeeping "holds the promise to resolve many of this era's conflicts," Mr. Clinton said, but "the United Nations cannot simply become involved in every one of the world's conflicts."

Mr. Clinton set out criteria by which the United States would participate in U.N. peacekeeping operations and authorise their implementations in the Security Council.

He said the United States would be up to date in paying for peacekeeping operations within the next few weeks.

By the end of the month Washington will owe \$1 billion for peacekeeping and for regular dues for this year and for arrears from past years — about half of the U.S. debt.

"I will work with the Congress to ensure we continue paying our peacekeeping bills to full but I am also committed to work with the U.N. to reduce our nation's assessment for these missions," Mr. Clinton said.

He said the basic assessment system has not been changed since 1973. "I believe our assessment rate should be reduced to reflect the rise of other nations' that now can

(Continued on page 5)

## Rabin: Palestinians should take lead in economic plans

The Jerusalem Post

THE PALESTINIANS, not Israel, should initiate calls for joint economic projects during the period of self-rule to avoid charges that Israel is seeking to maintain economic control of the territories, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly told the weekly cabinet session Sunday.

The issue of joint Israeli-Palestinian projects has become increasingly important as an inflow of billions of dollars in foreign aid and investment is expected in the years ahead. This money will mainly be earmarked for building an infrastructure in the territories.

This week's U.S.-sponsored multi-national donors conference in Washington will attempt to raise the \$3 billion the World Bank has said is necessary for Palestinian development over the next eight years.

Speaking to Israel Television's Arabic Service after the cabinet meeting, Economics Minister Shimon Shetret said, "It was agreed...that it is desirable that proposals come from them rather than from us, due

to their suspicions that we seek to dominate them."

But while Mr. Rabin was calling for restraint in initiating joint projects, leading bureaucrats from a variety of ministries met at the finance ministry and called for open trade between Israel and the Palestinian entity. "There should be free trade, without customs on either side," treasury budget director David Brodel said.

PLO economists say they want to spend \$2 billion on infrastructure annually, including \$700 million to \$800 million on urgent housing needs. Over the weekend, however, a senior PLO economic official said Israeli firms would be barred from bidding on infrastructure projects.

"We would not accept becoming a Trojan horse for Israeli economic supremacy in the Arab World in the post-peace era," said Samir Huleilah. He said the Palestinians will not allow Israeli companies to play a role in the "public sector infrastructure investment programme" during interim Palestinian self-

rule.

Mr. Rabin also told the cabinet that Israel prefers that future working group meetings on Gaza-Jericho be held in Tabat or Al Arish, while those dealing with other self-rule issues be held in Washington.

The PLO is slated to present its response to this on Friday, when Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meets Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) at the Washington donors conference.

According to the Israel-PLO agreement, talks on Gaza-Jericho are slated to begin on Oct. 13, but officials said it remains unclear if they will begin on time.

Officials in the prime minister's office said Israel's delegation to the Gaza-Jericho working groups will be headed by two generals, Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, who has coordinated a task force on security requirements, is slated to lead the security talks, and Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, coordinator in the territories, is slated to head those on the transfer of civilian authority in Gaza and Jericho.

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Welcome To AUSTRIAN



# Japan denies promising Israel to help end boycott

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Japan does not believe the Arab boycott of Israel is a good thing but does not intend to use its influence to persuade Arab states to end the economic embargo, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

In a statement issued in New York after talks between the Israeli and Japanese foreign ministers, the Foreign Ministry said the issue was discussed in their meeting.

Israel's mission to the United Nations said Sunday that Japan promised to use its influence with Arab states to end the 40-year old economic boycott against Israel and said it had already cautioned Iran not to jeopardise the Middle East peace process.

But the Japanese statement issued hours later denied that Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata had promised his Israeli counterpart to persuade Arab countries to end the boycott.

However, the statement said that Mr. Hata did not believe the Arab boycott was a good thing.

The Israeli statement quoted Mr. Hata as saying that Japan would try to convince Arab countries to end the boycott against Israel "because it contradicts the peace process."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in his meeting with Mr. Hata, also asked for Tokyo's economic support in developing Gaza and West Bank, where Palestinians are to get self-rule under an agreement signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

Syria called on Sunday for the tightening of the boycott, accusing Israel of asking for everything in the Middle East peace process in return for nothing.

On economic aid, Mr. Peres suggested holding a "wise-men's conference" of world experts to discuss building a "new Middle East," a Japanese foreign ministry official said.

He met Mr. Hata for 45 minutes a day before dozens of world leaders address the U.N. General Assembly.

Japanese media reports said last week that Japan was expected to provide \$100 million a year, or up to \$900 million over 10 years as its part of the effort.

An international fund-raising conference will be held in Washington on Oct. 1 aimed at raising \$3 billion to support

the pact on Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The World Bank has estimated that it is the amount needed over 10 years to support the pact.

At press briefings, Mr. Hata suggested that Israel spread to Arab states its high-level technology in the fields of agriculture and medicine, and Mr. Peres said these were areas in which Israel and Japan should cooperate.

Mr. Peres invited the Japanese foreign minister to visit Israel, and Mr. Hata said he would like to do so as soon as possible.

Earlier in the day, demonstrators heckled Mr. Peres as he spoke at a New York City synagogue. Security guards ushered out the protesters and Mr. Peres continued speaking about the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Peres suggested "some sort of meeting of five wise men" representing the United States, Japan, the European Community, the Nordic countries, and Asia — possibly India or China — to come up with ideas for "transforming the whole area into a new Middle East."

They would be looking into the future, beyond the immediate financial needs of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The five "wise men" would talk about developments further into the future, and ways to finance the development of a "new Middle East," looking at its needs and potential, the Israeli official said.

Their role would be "to shape the ideas and to look into where the money is going to come from," he added.

Mr. Hata reacted positively, saying it offered a good opportunity to continue the peace process, a Japanese official said.

Mr. Peres also said he would like to see Japan using its influence in Iran to "ensure that Iran would not use their influence to jeopardise the (Middle East) peace process," the Israeli official said.

Mr. Hata replied that Japan had already warned Tehran not to do anything that could endanger the peace process.

The Israeli minister also raised the possibility of combining Israeli technological know-how and Japanese financing in joint ventures in agriculture and medicine in de-

veloping countries, and the two sides agreed to discuss the idea further, the officials said.

Damascus Radio said in a commentary on Sunday: "Peres' provocative statement proved Israel wants everything in return for nothing. This it will never have so long as a single Arab right remains un-restored and an inch of Arab land remains unliberated."

Tishreen said in an editorial: "Arabs are requested to tighten rather than abolish the boycott against Israel because two years of (peace) talks on the Middle East in Washington produced nothing due to Israeli rejection of the basis of just and comprehensive peace."

Syria, showing increasing signs of annoyance since the September 13 signing of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord which it sees as weakening its negotiating stance, was apparently worried that lifting the boycott would further strengthen Israel's attitude in the peace talks.

Its official newspapers have given prominence in the past few days to articles about the boycott, but Sunday's editorial and commentary were the first clear statements of official thinking.

The boycott has been enforced since 1953 by Arab League members. Egypt is the only league country to have abolished it as part of its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Talaat Hamed, an Arab League official, told Reuters in Cairo on Sunday the boycott's goals "are political before they are economic."

"As long as Israel occupies Arab lands and continues its non-humanitarian practices against the Arab citizens there and does not implement the U.N. resolutions on their rights, the boycott will continue," he said.

Under rules, all Israeli companies and products are boycotted. This is classified under boycott regulations as direct boycott.

Under the indirect boycott, foreign companies and their subsidiaries involved in strategic projects in Israel are also boycotted and blacklisted in Arab countries.

Foreign companies investing in non-strategic projects in Israel are asked under the rules to make similar investments in Arab countries to avoid being

blacklisted, an Arab diplomat explained.

But league member-states have flexibility in applying the regulations in accordance with local laws, the diplomat said.

Al Baath, organ of the ruling Syrian Baath Party, said in an article Sunday 175 foreign companies were blacklisted for dealing with Israel. It did not name the companies.

Mr. Hamed said Israeli officials estimated their country's losses from the boycott at \$45 billion.

Boycott officials are tight-lipped on their own estimates of its economic impact on Israel over the past 40 years but diplomats believe it exceeds \$45 billion.

The United States, Western Europe and Japan have pressed for the lifting of the boycott, the diplomats said.

A league official who asked not to be named told Reuters: "The boycott is the only pressure and bargaining card in the hands of the Arab negotiators in Washington."

Mr. Hamed said it would be possible to review the indirect boycott "if there is progress achieved on all levels in the peace talks."

Almost two years of talks in Washington have failed to produce progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Diplomats said the U.S. pressure was aimed at the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states in particular — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher has publicly called on Arab states to end their economic boycott.

GCC Secretary-General Sheikh Fahim Ben Sultan Al Qassimi, was quoted on Saturday by Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej newspaper as saying the boycott issue dominated his talks with U.S. officials in Washington.

"It is premature to speak about normal ties with Israel. We have not yet reached the stage of normalisation," he told Arab reporters.

Sheikh Fahim said: "What has happened between the Palestinians and the Israelis is an agreement on principles, we have not yet reached peace. There remain occupied Arab lands in the Golan, South Lebanon and the entire West Bank. ... Why are we being rushed?"

## Nathan to close his 'Voice of Peace'

TEL AVIV (R) — Veteran Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan said Sunday that after 20 years and a handshake between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat he was closing the Voice of Peace radio station.

"On the first of the month there will be no more broadcasts of the Voice of Peace... I believe the ship did its job — there's peace now," Mr. Nathan told Israel Television.

"When I saw the handshake, on one hand it was my dream. On the other hand, I burst into tears saying 'too bad it didn't happen earlier and there wouldn't have been so many victims'."

The Voice of Peace has broadcast popular music and news from a 1940s-vintage ship anchored in international waters just outside Israel's jurisdiction since March 1973.

Mr. Nathan told Reuters his decision was based as much on money problems as on the signing of an historic peace accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Sept. 13 at which Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat shook hands.

"I decided I cannot maintain the peace ship... every month I've been losing money," Mr. Nathan said.

In February, Israeli media reported that the Israeli daily



Abie Nathan newspaper Maariv had acquired the sole option to purchase the Voice of Peace for \$325,000. "We were negotiating," Mr. Nathan said on Sunday, but added: "Nobody is buying the ship."

Mr. Nathan, 66, served as a fighter pilot with British forces in World War II and migrated to Israel in 1948.

His one-man campaign for Middle East peace began in 1966 when he flew his private plane christened "Shalom (peace) One" to Egypt at the height of tensions between that country and Israel. Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1979.

Mr. Nathan was jailed three times by Israeli authorities for meeting Mr. Arafat before the Jewish state lifted its ban against private citizens' contacts with the PLO in January of this year.

Egypt is still the only Arab state formally at peace with Israel. In June, Mr. Nathan went to Libya but did not succeed in his attempt to meet its leader Muammar Qadhafi.

## U.S. senator calls for narrowed Somalia role

WASHINGTON (AP) — Expanding the peacekeeping mission in Somalia was a mistake, and it is time for Congress to narrow the U.S. role there so it has a definite ending point, a top senator said Sunday.

"This mission cannot continue to be enlarged, and I would make that mission very narrow based on what I know now," Sen. Sam Nunn, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Demands for an end to the U.S. military presence in Somalia were given new impetus Saturday when Somali militiamen shot down a U.S. helicopter with a rocket-launched grenade. Three U.S. servicemen died.

Despite being a member of President Bill Clinton's party, Senator Robert C. Byrd of Virginia called for a rapid withdrawal before more Americans are killed.

"I think we have to ask the administration what is the mission, and I believe that at the very least the Senate and the house ought to narrow that mission so that we have a definitive ending point," Mr. Nunn said.

He added that he did not favour putting time limits on any military deployment, but questioned the announced U.S. and U.N. resolve to capture Somali warlord Mohammed Farrah Aideed.

Gen. Aideed's forces have been blamed for killing 56 peacekeepers and wounding hundreds since May.

"I don't think capturing one person is going to end this," Mr. Nunn said. "There are too many people out there in the streets celebrating the death of Americans, which is absolutely disgusting and tragic and deplorable. But it also may tell us something about the popular sentiment."

Jubilant crowds surrounded the downed helicopter in Mogadishu on Saturday and reporters who went to the



Sam Nunn scene several hours later said some Somalis displayed what they said were pieces of flesh from the dead crew.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said the attack "underscores the need to reestablish security in Mogadishu to prevent the international humanitarian efforts from being undermined."

The Senate earlier this month passed a resolution asking Mr. Clinton to report on the Somali situation by Oct. 15, and setting a Nov. 15 date for congressional action to authorize the presence of U.S. troops there.

Sen. majority leader Bob Dole, asked on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley" whether he favoured an immediate pullout, said, "We ought to give the president time to work this out."

But he stressed: "We need to find out what our mission is there before additional Americans and others are killed."

Mr. Dole said policy towards the U.S. troops in Somalia, about 4,000 out of a total U.N. peacekeeping force of 28,000, would affect whether Congress approves a larger peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

The administration is suggesting that 50,000 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) troops, including 25,000 Americans, could be deployed to Bosnia if the warring factions there end their territorial dispute and agree on a peace plan.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli court jails 2 Arabs for life

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military court failed to Palestinians for life Sunday for killing Israelis and Palestinians an army spokeswoman said. Israel's army radio said the two men were activists in the Black Panthers, a militant group affiliated with Fatah. The killed Palestinians were suspected of helping Israel. "A military court in Jericho (in the occupied West Bank) ... sentenced Imad Jaradat to four life sentences and another 85 years in prison and Youssef Arshad to five life sentences and an additional 55 years in prison," the spokeswoman said. The army said Mr. Jaradat had been convicted of killing three Arabs he suspected had aided Israeli authorities and two Israeli citizens. He was also convicted of shooting Israeli forces. Mr. Arshad was convicted of killing five Arab he suspected of being collaborators.

### Row with Kuwait unintentional — Libya

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya has said that its ambassador to Kuwait had unintentionally triggered a diplomatic row which led to his expulsion from the Gulf state. Ambassador Ham Salah Al Mudir was told on Saturday to leave Kuwait immediately and was expected back in Tripoli Monday, an official from the Arab Unity Ministry here told AFP. Tripoli took the "necessary measures to recall its ambassador to Kuwait, who is considered responsible of triggering a diplomatic incident, although he did not mean to do it," the official said. He said Libya wanted to "consolidate its relations with Arab countries and avoid anything that could offend even unintentionally, any Arab leader." Arab diplomat sources said the incident erupted when extracts from an o speech in which Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi criticised Saudi Arabia were shown at an embassy reception in Kuwait on Wednesday to mark Libya's national day. Libyan diplomats said that because of an "oversight" about two minutes of it speech were included on a videocassette of patriotic Libya songs. The Saudi ambassador to Kuwait, Trad Al Harthi, was outraged and exchanged harsh words with the Libyan envoy and called on fellow representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to leave the reception, the sources said. Several representatives from GCC states Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates left along with Mr. Harthi, the sources said.

### Majlis rejects legalising transplants

TEHRAN (AFP) — The conservative-dominated Iranian parliament has rejected a bill to legalise organ transplant from the brain-dead. "This is a blow to science," said a deputy who backed the bill. "This action will block efforts to save lives," he said. "How can we disconnect life-support systems and mutilate a person whose death we are not sure of?" an opponent of the bill said. "In many cases the patient still alive even if he looks a vegetable." The bill, introduced jointly by the ministries of health and justice, was seeking to institutionalise a religious decree issued by Iran's late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. After outlawing such transplants for several years, Ayatollah Khomeini approved the practice in 1987 if the would-be donor's death was made absolutely certain.

### 100 held in connection with Iran forgery scam

TEHRAN (AFP) — The authorities have arrested 130 people including police and army officers, in connection with a massive forgery scam involving the sale of state-owned land, a municipal official said Sunday. Mohammad Ali Nassajian, the head of the Tehran municipality security department, said the group had been forging deeds and the signatures of housing officials since 1985 to illegally sell government properties. The suspects, among them 20 Tehran municipality employees, also sold confiscated properties belonging to Iranian exiles to clients which included government cooperatives, he said. Mr. Nassajian said that "billions of rials" were made from the scam. A dollar was worth 1,600 rials on the black market which was scrapped in March 1993. The official rate is 70 rials to the dollar. He said more than 400 people were involved in the scam and that 30 per cent of them work for the Tehran municipality.

### 'More Iraqis flee attacks in south'

NICOSIA (R) — A further 90 people have fled to Iran from Iraq's southern marshes saying government attacks there are continuing and babies are dying for lack of milk, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported. IRNA said the 90 Iraqis crossed on Saturday night into Iran's Khuzestan province, where about 5,200 Iraqis have been taking refuge since July. The agency quoted the newly-arrived refugees as saying that Iraq forces were continuing attacks on the marshes and reports more people being killed. "Baathist (Iraqi government) forces are running amok in the marshes plundering homes as property," it quoted one refugee as saying. Iraqi opposition groups said that the Iraqi government was draining the marshes and forcing the area's residents from their homes depriving them of drinking water and preventing them from fishing.

### Iran's news agency plans prayer break

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's official news agency, IRNA, is to have news and picture transmissions for half an hour every day so staff can pray together. The agency said on Sunday that special noon prayers were to begin on Monday. "The initiative taken by the managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency, Fereydon Vardinejad, will enable the IRNA staff to perform the noon prayers in congregation," it said. "It attaches prime importance to congregational prayers," added. IRNA said it would halt its routine telex service and news and photo services during the noon prayers.

## Peace brings more fear for PLO fighters

By Barry Parker  
Agence France Presse

RAFAH. Occupied Gaza Strip — Palestinians guerrillas, under orders to halt all anti-Israeli operations, fear for their lives more than ever now in the lethal days before Palestinian autonomy begins on Oct. 13.

Selim Muwaf, 24, is obeying the ceasefire but feels dangerously exposed as the Israeli army tries to hunt him down.

"They want to kill us and be rid of us for good. The army has really stepped up the pressure," he told AFP at a secret location in the ragged Shahura refugee camp at Rafah.

"I've killed a lot of Israelis. If they catch me without killing me they will torture me to death. They do not want to arrest us now because they know we will be released once autonomy starts," said Mr. Muwaf, a wanted member of Palestine Liberation Organisation's main armed wing Fatah Hawks.

"I will fight capture with everything but my last bullet. I will keep that to kill myself rather than be taken."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has ordered the Hawks to halt all military operations against the Israelis since the autonomy agreement was signed two weeks ago.

"I can fire only to defend myself," Mr. Muwaf said. "I cannot fire first."

"It's much harder now than it was before the agreement. Soldiers went to my house this week and picked up my 10-month-old daughter and told her they would send my dead body back to her."

Mr. Muwaf, 23, last used his Galil automatic rifle to fire in the air during celebrations to mark the signing of the accord.

"Maybe I won't fire again until Arafat and our army arrive and that will be in the air," he smiled.

But until that day comes, he and his comrades are worried men.

"Every day I ask my chief what to do," he said. "What does the future hold for me?"

Hisham Juda is that chief, head of the Fatah Hawks on the Gaza Strip, and he is equally concerned.

"This is the most difficult time we have ever had," he said in his first interview since taking over as Hawks leader in Gaza earlier this year.

Mr. Juda called together in Rafah guerrillas from across the strip on Friday and contacted PLO headquarters in Tunis in front of them to offer reassurance.

"We are under a lot of pressure," he said, surrounded by four of his 50 armed guerrillas. "Soldiers also went to my house and told my parents they would send me home in a black body bag."

The uncertainty is gnawing away in the countdown to the Israeli pullout.

"For us the future is dark and no one can see what it will be," said the 28-year-old. "We are not happy, things are not clear for us."

"Tunis has told me not to sleep, to keep looking behind me and be patient. We are

waiting until Oct. 13."

There was no question of not following PLO orders but Mr. Juda wants the Israelis to call off the manhunt.

"The Israeli soldiers must respect the decision of their leaders," he said. "We have an agreement. They should come and shake my hand. I'm ready to shake their hand now there is peace."

Three Fatah Hawks were arrested in Jabalia refugee camp on Wednesday night in a border police swoop and the army has shot dead six Palestinians in the occupied territories since the signing on Sept. 13.

The Hawks in Gaza are far from a farewell to arms.

"We need our guns until the Israeli army withdraws and our leaders are here," Mr. Muwaf said.

They are not interested in joining the embryo Palestinian police force but see themselves as Palestinian soldiers who have sacrificed everything and deserve a leading role in a new army or security service.

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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	OmniNews
18:30	A comedy series
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	People Next Door
21:00	Faces and Places
21:30	Doc. Voyager
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film: "Royal Wedding"
PRAYER TIMES	
05:06	Fajr
06:23	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:27	Dhuhr
15:52	'Asr
18:36	Maghrib
19:47	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetich, Tel. 010740	
Assassins of God Church, Tel. 63785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62450	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63740	
De la Salle Church Tel. 60157	
Terrence Church Tel. 62366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62351	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Weather will be moderate, and winds will be variable occasionally becoming northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	17/31
Aqaba	24/35
Dead Sea	14/33
Jordan Valley	22/35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 19 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.	

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Jamil Tariq	794710
Dr. Abbas Al-Halimi	585446
Dr. Fayez Al-Dabbas	791153
Dr. Youssef Rashid	896301
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637855
Nadwath pharmacy	623672
Al Salami pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairouth pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Mazen Sharairi	248056
Alquds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Hisham Hyasat	982440
Khalil pharmacy	985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence	199
Rescue Police	192, 621 111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	75121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	665800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Animals and Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Annual Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abroad Telephone Repairs	681101
London Connection	681111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100





Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar Monday attend the second day of a workshop on birth spacing and mother and child care (Petra photo)

## Ministry recommends forming council to supervise birth spacing services

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop on a national birth spacing programme which opened in Amman Sunday continued into its second day with a review of a working paper on safe motherhood submitted by the Ministry of Health Secretary General Makram Ishaq, that recommended forming a council to supervise birth spacing services.

Focusing on the health of Jordanian mothers compared with those in advanced countries and developing nations, the paper presented an analytical report on the causes and rates of maternal deaths, as well as health and birth spacing services for mothers at the ministry of health Mother and Child Care Centres and maternity hospitals in the Kingdom.

It called for the introduction of better, more modern means of conducting fertility and family health surveys and accurate registration of deaths. The paper also recommended the development of health services to mothers and the creation of a blood bank in the north of Jordan similar to the central blood bank in Amman.

In addition, it recommended the creation of a higher council for supervising birth spacing services.

Meanwhile, the National Population Commission (NPC), which organised the three-day event, Monday published a report predicting that nearly 5.2 million people will be living in Jordan by end of the century.

Noting that Jordan's population was 586,000 in 1952, the report said that the figure jumped to 3.9 million by the end of 1991 as a result of population growth estimated at 4.3 per cent.

By the year 2030, Jordan's population will grow to nine million if the present growth rate persists, said the report.

The major population growth is in the cities of Amman, Irbid and Zarqa where the fertility rates are higher and the mortality rates are lower than other areas of the Kingdom, the report claimed. Furthermore these three cities were the main recipients of forced migrations during the Arab-Israeli conflict of the past four decades and the return of hundreds of thousands of

Jordanian expatriates from Kuwait and the Gulf countries as a result of the Gulf crisis, adding to the population of these urban centres, said the report.

Referring to the Jordanian workforce, the report said that it stood at 446,000 in 1979, but rose to 920,000 in 1991, and the unemployment rate in 1991 stood at 17.1 per cent.

According to the report, a fertility and family health survey conducted in 1990, indicated that 50 per cent of married women were willing to use birth control methods.

It said that the rate of births per family dropped from 7.6 children in 1986 to 5.6 in 1990.

At the same time, the report pointed out that the mortality rates have dropped because of improved health services in Jordan. Estimated at 19 per 1,000 deaths in the 1950s, the figure declined to 12 per thousand in the 1970s and six per thousand in 1990, said the report.

As for children, the mortality rate among them dropped from 125 per 1,000 to 34 per 1,000 between the 1950s and 1990.

## Panelists suggest more freedoms for women

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Ssour Monday opened a three-day national conference on the role of Jordanian women in the democratisation process by demanding that women be granted more freedoms and be allowed to participate in various activities.

"The Jordanian Constitution states clearly that Jordanians have equal rights and duties regardless of their ethnic origin, language or religion," said the minister in an opening address to the conference, hosted by the Jordan University for Women.

"Furthermore, the Constitution granted Jordanians the right to set up societies and

political parties, hold meetings and address public authorities on issues of public interest," added Dr. Ssour who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Paying tribute to Jordanian women's contributions to socio-economic development of the Kingdom, the minister said women are no less productive than men and have been playing a key role in the development of society.

Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, addressed the audience, saying that Jordanian women played a key role in the 1989 parliamentary elections despite failing to place a women deputy in parliament.

"In some cases, women's votes were decisive in helping certain candidates to win," said Dr. Abu Ghazaleh.

She said that the past experiment, however, has taught women a lesson from which is hoped they would benefit in their involvement in the coming elections. "The convening of this conference assumes special meaning in view of the serious developments occurring in the region and as the country is preparing for the next parliamentary elections," added Dr. Abu Ghazaleh.

It is true that Jordanian women have exerted strenuous efforts in their contribution to national development, she added. Yet, these efforts were

below the required level, she maintained.

Dr. Abu Ghazaleh said that to improve women's conditions in Jordan, policies should be based on representing women as mothers as well as productive members of society, and then gear efforts to help develop women's potentials and creative talents.

The first session reviewed two working papers which included results of a survey conducted under the supervision of the Centre of Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan on Jordanian women's participation in political life (See story page 10).

Senator Hosni Ayesh presented a paper in the second

session referring to the wide gap between men and women and the lack of women's participation in political life.

He blamed the gap on Jordanian women's negative attitudes towards expressing their political rights as well as the lack of political will by the governments and the Lower House of Parliament to speed up the involvement of women in this arena.

To bridge this gap, said Dr. Ayesh, women should be more strongly represented in the various governmental institutions, and legislation should be amended or introduced that would be more in women's favour, particularly the Civil Status Law and labour laws.

## Refugees question what PLO-Israel accord means to them

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

WHDAT REFUGEE CAMP

— An atmosphere of confusion prevails in the Kingdom's 10 refugee camps, housing one quarter of the almost 1,057,342 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan. With the advent of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel accord, the future of the Palestinian refugees has been put into question and their status remains uncertain despite assurances by His Majesty King Hussein.

Most refugees are confused about what the PLO-Israel accord on limited autonomy means to them, and most are angry that the refugee issue has been left out of the accord altogether.

Historically the refugee issue is in many ways the embodiment of the Palestine issue. Those Palestinians who fled their homes, towns and cities in what became Israel in 1948, and who were subsequently registered in make-shift United Nations-run camps in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon during the early 1950s, are Palestine refugees.

In 1950 the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) had registered just over 90,000 Palestinians as refugees. Today the registered refugees and their descendants number 2,761,477 according to 1992 UNRWA figures.

More than a million of these refugees live in Jordan. Many of them have been made aware of their historical rights of return or compensation. The rights in question are enshrined in several U.N. resolutions, the first of which was passed on December 11, 1948 by the U.N. General Assembly.

Resolution 194 was the first of a series of U.N. resolutions which guaranteed the refugees their historic rights and U.N. resolutions have been the main point of reference for those defending the rights of the refugees ever since. The resolution "resolve(s) that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live in peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return ..."

On the issue of compensation, the resolution added that those liable for paying compensation should be "the governments or authorities responsible."

Although some refugees have inquired at UNRWA about compensation for property seized by the Israelis when they fled Palestine, most have not. "We have had a few hundred enquiries," said an UNRWA official in the Baqa'a camp, "but that represents a small fraction of the population in these camps."

Most refugees who spoke to the Jordan Times said that they

would not live in a Palestinian autonomous region or a state on the West Bank and Gaza. Although some would not forgo the historical right of return for monetary compensation, an increasing number of refugees who believe they will not be allowed to return may opt for monetary compensation.

The acceptance of monetary compensation of any amount, which would be documented by several U.N. agencies, would

- 1) relinquish their right of return and;
- 2) waive their status as refugees, say UNRWA officials.

There have been no clear indications of what numbers could be involved, say Jordanian Ministry of Interior officials as well as UNRWA officials.

the South Amman camp of Whdat.

Overall all it is the younger people here who are expressing more anger at the PLO-Israel deal.

"We suffered in these camps, they are crowded and at the beginning we had to build our own homes on a sliver of ground, we had to build our own sewage holes and there was a lot of disease and unemployment," said Ahmad Qaisi, 30, also of Whdat. Ahmad is an accountant who helps support his 11 brothers and sisters.

He argues that the accord will have made "Palestinian suffering" over the last 45 years "meaningless." "The fedayeen (Palestinian guerrillas) were mostly 1948 refugees or their children — now their rights are not even on the agenda," said Ahmad.

While some older camp Palestinians wave their five-year passports in the air and shout "we are Jordanians now," the younger ones feel that much of their struggle and lives have been wasted.

"We were tools it seems, now that Arafat has got what he could get — he will just give up on the rest and to bell with us," said Mahmoud Ata, also 30.

The armed struggle, say these young men, who are not Islamists, is the only alternative. None of them has ever taken military action against Israel. But they believe that an inter-Palestinian war will be

waged in the occupied territories after Mr. Arafat arrives in Jenicho.

They are concerned about their own future status. Although almost all 1948 refugees in Jordan have Jordanian nationality, and they have established what would be all accounts be a permanent existence in Jordan, they remain torn between the identity that branded them refugees and their relatively new identity given to them by the country that granted them citizenship.

Built in the 1950s, Whdat houses mostly refugees from the Lyd/Ramleh and Jaffa regions. Today it is a crowded hustling commercial centre. For those who think refugee camps are still a series of tents — Whdat could come as a shock — it's concrete housing gives the impression that it is a suburban ghetto rather than a refugee camp.

The living conditions encouraged many with the financial means to do so to move out. Today of Whdat's 200,000 registered refugees, some 39,975 actually reside in the camp. The rest have rented or bought housing outside the camps boundaries.

For many of the younger people in these camps, the PLO-Israel accord may mean that they will have to decide if they want to stay in the camps and wait longer still to find out about the status and relevance of U.N. resolutions like 194, or move out of the camps and live as Jordanians in Jordan.



President of the University of Jordan Fawzi Gharaibeh (second from left) Monday addresses the opening of the International Conference of the International Academy of Business Disciplines

## New business concepts should consider cultural, economic environments — experts

AMMAN (J.T.) — It is important to transfer new business concepts to the commodity-driven societies, taking into consideration the difference in the cultural and economic environments between these countries and developed ones, said Fawzi Gharaibeh, president of the University of Jordan.

In opening the International Conference of the International Academy of Business Disciplines Monday Dr. Gharaibeh said this international cooperation

is valuable in exchanging knowledge and research outcomes in the fields of business administration.

Mubsen Makhamreh, dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences and the co-chair of the conference, stressed the importance of global changes in the business field and said that several research papers including contemporary issues in international business, information systems, total quality management, privatisation in global

management will be covered in this conference.

He said that a total of 53 papers will be presented and discussed during the three days of the conference.

President of the Academy Mary Thibodeaux and Vice President Abbas Al Khafaji also said in their opening remarks that cooperation in promoting East-West relations was most useful. They thanked the University of Jordan for its role in convening the conference.

## Fish shipments are safe, says health minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Commenting on a report from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that authorities there last week destroyed 30 tonnes of fish found poisoned with chemicals, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Monday said that shipments of fish arriving in Jordanian markets are absolutely free of any contamination.

Jordan imports fish from various sources, but all shipments are subject to thorough tests at several of the health ministry laboratories before being allowed to be sold in the local markets, the minister told the Jordan Times.

All shipments of food including fish should meet specifications set by the health authorities in Jordan, and therefore all types of food including

fish have to go through stringent testing procedures before they are approved for retail sale, added Dr. Malhas.

A Reuters report from Abu Dhabi published in the Jordan Times Monday said UAE authorities collected fish stocked at the fish market and destroyed it after samples were found to be contaminated.

Dr. Malhas said that samples of food which prove to be unfit for human consumption are either returned or destroyed upon entry into the Kingdom.

Following the reports about the UAE fish contamination, the health ministry here tightened its control over the entry of all fish shipments, he said but added that health inspection teams also conduct spot checks on fish sold at markets.

## Missing boy found in child care centre, but parents are unable to release him

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Whdat family whose nine-year-old son was reported missing for six days is still unable to bring him home from a Ministry of Social Development Child Care Centre in Wadi Al Seer where he has been held since Sept. 18.

The boy, Ahmad Jasser, was picked up by ministry officials, who said the child was selling gum on the street and brought him to the child care centre.

The child's family told the Jordan Times that they were unaware that their son was selling gum on the streets, and when he disappeared on September 18, they became worried because Ahmad has a speaking disability and they feared that their son was lost, kidnapped or killed; so they informed the police, they said.

The troubled father, Abdul-Jasser, said he searched for his son for five days, before deciding to place an advertisement in two major Arabic dailies on Sept. 22 about his missing boy.

"I called all hospitals and police stations in hope of find-

ing my son, but nobody had any information about him," said Mr. Jasser. "My final hope was to place an ad in the newspaper. The next day I got a call from the child care centre in Wadi Al Seer and was informed that my son was there." Ahmad's father said he rushed to the centre to pick up his son, but was astounded to learn that he had to go through court to get him back because he was charged with child neglect.

Since then, Mr. Jasser said he has been running back and forth from one government department to another in an attempt to bring his son home. "Thank God I found my son, and nothing harmful happened to him," he said. "But I can't believe the hassle I am going through to retrieve him," said the father angrily.

Mr. Jasser told the Jordan Times that the ministry informed him that he would be able to pick up his son on Monday (yesterday), after signing a commitment that the boy will not attempt to sell any items on the streets.

Director of Social Defence at the ministry of social de-

velopment, Ismael Abdul Kader said Ahmad's case is not new. He said the ministry runs into the same problem daily.

"It is the same story everyday," he said. "Most poor families send their children to solicit. When we detain them, the families try in any way possible to claim their children," said Mr. Abdul Kader.

The director maintained that the ministry's role is to work day and night to keep the homeless and beggars off the streets. "We have a staff that goes after the solicitors to detain them and deliver them to special centres," he said. He added that the cooperation of the families in this area would also be helpful.

"I hope families work on educating their children, so that they will direct them on doing better things for themselves and for the society," said Mr. Abdul Kader.

As of Monday evening Mr. Jasser was still unable to release his son from the care centre. He told the Jordan Times that the ministry promised to give him his son back on Tuesday (today).

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of products by UNRWA-run women's programme centres (including embroidery, handicrafts, and greeting cards) at the Professional Association Complex (9 a.m. - 6 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Eastern Dancing — Entertainment in Spare Time" by Sigrid Benemann at Goethe Institute.
- ★ The First International Festival of Fine Arts in Jordan entitled "Colour and Light in the Nabatean Civilisation" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in Jordan.
- ★ Art exhibition of paintings on Petra by British artist Caroline Dobson at the British Council.
- ★ Iraqi Art Festival at the Alla Art Gallery
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and photographic pictures of old Baghdad by Nadim Mulsin at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Permanent exhibition of 58 artists and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Fann of the Abdal Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luwbeidh (10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Tel. 643251-2
- ★ Exhibition of Chinese products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Agricultural Books at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILM

- ★ Film entitled: "Freedom is Ours" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

## First international expo to include Arab, European and U.S. products

AMMAN (J.T.) — European, American and Arab countries will be among nations displaying products at the first Jordanian international expo to open in Amman on Oct. 17, according to an announcement Monday.

Walid Hikmat, general Manager of the International Hikmat Group, which is organising the expo at the Amman International Centre in Marj Al Hamam, said consumer goods, garments, electrical appliances, pumps, engines, carpets, solar heated cars, auto spare parts, agricultural equipment and many other items will be displayed at the six-day event.

The expo named "Petra," will provide a chance for business persons from Jordan and other countries to exchange views and expertise on trade and economic cooperation during the first four days, Mr. Hikmat said.

Only the last two days of the event will be open to the public to view the various items on display, he added.

Stressing its importance, Mr. Hikmat said the expo comes in the wake of the Jordanian government's announcement of its JD 5 billion five-year socio-economic development plan.

He said Brazil, France, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Tunisia, Cyprus, Germany and

Egypt will take part in the expo in displaying goods alongside numerous firms, from different countries.

Meanwhile the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) has reported that the Jordanian industrial fair now on in Casablanca has been a great success. Certain Jordanian products on display at the fair were sold out in the first three days after the Sept. 18 opening, said a spokesman for JEDCO, which organised the fair. On display are goods from 60 Jordanian industrial companies. JEDCO said part of the fair sells goods directly to the public.

## Princess Sarvath meets with Ambassador Foundation official

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan met Monday with Joseph Locke, vice-president of the Ambassador Foundation, and the accompanying delegation. Princess Sarvath discussed with the delegation the prospects for cooperation between the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA), which she chairs, and the Ambassador Foundation. The Princess patronised the cooperation between the two institutions for the past eleven years, in particular those aspects related to training, education and the rehabilitation of moderate to mildly mentally handicapped persons through both the YMWA's Centre for Special Education and Sheltered Workshops.

## Syrian officials visit NHF projects

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-member Syrian health ministry team is touring the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) services and projects. NHF Director General In'am Al Mufit met the Syrian team Monday and outlined the foundation's development and main projects and activities which, she said, largely benefit mothers and children in the rural regions. In the four-day visit, the Syrian officials, who specialise in family, population and health affairs, will visit NHF projects and review the prospects of training Syrian personnel in Jordan to carry out similar projects in Syria. The tour will include visits to villages and rural areas where the NHF is executing income-generating projects for the local communities.

Save water every drops counts



## Jordan Times

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## Leave the Russians sort their own affairs

**THE POWER** struggle in Russia between President Boris Yeltsin and parliament may well be contained for the present but is unlikely to disappear until and unless the foundations of modern Russia are more clearly delineated. Last week's flare-up of conflict between the executive and legislative branches of government was not the first and is not likely to be last. The depth of the problems facing Russia in its bid to transform itself from a communist order into a pluralistic democracy functioning on the edifices of free market society.

The essence of the dispute between President Boris Yeltsin and his opponents, including speaker of parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov and his supporters, go beyond the debate over the right kind of economy that Russia should have or the form of democracy that it should pursue. Russia has had very little experience and culture in working democracy and all past efforts to introduce contemporary democracy had given way to totalitarianism soon thereafter. Historians have often depicted the Russian people as not prone to Western-style democracy for reasons that go far into their history and traditions.

Be that as it may, though, the world should not interfere in Russian attempts to rediscover their identity and chart their course for the future. The immediate Western endorsement of Yeltsin's moves to dissolve parliament and rule by decree will not help the struggle to set the dynamics of modernisation into motion in the former Soviet Union. When the Group of Seven (G-7) representing the richest Western countries decided to throw its weight behind Yeltsin Sunday, they have in effect thrown their lot on one side of Russia that may or may not survive the ongoing struggle for power. Such naked intervention may undermine the current efforts to find a compromise at a time when the domestic conflict threatens to burst wide open and engulf the entire Russian Federation into a civil war.

Fortunately, the 60 semi-autonomous regions of Russia have entered the fray in a bid to mediate between the two warring sides. Those internal endeavours need to be promoted and not frustrated by outside centres of power by taking sides of one group against another. Neither the cause of free enterprise nor multi-party democracy stands to gain from the present conflict escalating into wider and deeper proportions.

The whole world should strive instead to encourage a dialogue between the two forces by extending a helping hand to such an effort. The whole international community stands to lose a lot if the former superpower plunges into a bloody strife especially when there are thousands of nuclear weapons spread all over the country in different command centres.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Monday discussed the situation in the world oil market and the influence of Western nations on oil-rich countries. We have started to hear Germany and Italy opposing a U.N. Security Council move to impose sanctions on Libyan oil sales, said Tareq Masarweh. London, Paris and Washington, which have ample supplies of oil coming to them from the Gulf states and the North Sea do not wish to see Libya selling its oil, while Italy and Germany, which import oil from Libya and other North African nations, feel their interests threatened, said the writer. At the same time, the Arab Gulf countries are demanding that they alone, without Iraq or Libya, should be allowed to sell their oil to the West in order to get ample compensation for what they had lost during the Gulf crisis, he said. Furthermore, London, Paris and Washington want to secure further sales of military hardware to the Gulf states and so they respond favourably to these states' request, added Masarweh. It is regrettable to see Arab countries demanding the starvation of Arab people in the name of national interest and it is really disgusting to see and hear Western nations seeking their own selfish interest at expense of the innocent Arab population, he added. He said it is regrettable to see that no one is defending the Libyan national interests nor those of the real interests of the Arab Nation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour criticised the educational system in Jordan, noting the flaws in school education and the difficulties students face in trying to obtain higher education. Following the announcement of the results of the tawjihi examinations, parents have been trying desperately to enrol their children in state or private universities, but many were disappointed, said Mohammad Daoudieh. The students with 65 to 79 per cent tawjihi average results have no chance to enrol and those who do not have the cash to pay the private colleges lose the opportunity of acquiring higher education, he pointed out.

By Rami G. Khouri

## JOPOs, POJOs and the beautiful face of history herself

The obviously strong inclination to postpone the November parliamentary elections is based on good arguments; but on balance, the arguments in favour of holding the elections on time are much better. The government appears ready to postpone, which would be a mistake in my book, and a big missed opportunity at a decisive moment in modern Arab history.

This is something of a moment of historical reckoning for Jordan, Palestine and most of the modern Middle East. We are in the midst of an exciting and historic process of self-assessment, rebirth and rational reconfiguration. The stresses, distortions, artificialities, and fantasies of our 20th century are slowly being recognised; many of them are being addressed, and inshallah, corrected. Jordan is right in the middle of this process — geographically, politically and intellectually — to its credit. Under the constant prodding of His Majesty King Hussein, since 1989 Jordan has been a vocal advocate of concepts such as participation democracy, human rights, pluralism and the politics of dialogue, inclusion and rationality. We have put some of these principles into practice, and others are on the way.

Before 1989, we respected but did not implement all these political values; we were one of many other newly formed modern Arab states that suffered serious imbalances in our natural resources, dependencies in our economic resources and deficiencies in our top-heavy and rigid domestic political systems. It is to the credit of Jordan's people and leadership that we have recognised our past mistakes without rancour, guilt or vindictiveness, and have taken steps to remedy them. This is why we are stable and self-confident at home, respected abroad and increasingly envied in other Arab/Islamic lands. We enjoy no major military, economic, demographic or ideological powers; but we enjoy something far more decisive in the historical saga of cultures and people — a spirit of self-confidence that stems from our firm commitment to some basic, honourable principles of human development and nation-building.

In this context, therefore, to postpone the elections strikes me as a giant step sideways. It would be an easy but unnecessary act of postponing the inevitable historical reckoning that is not only the destiny of all people, but that also could be, in our case in Jordan today, a rare and daring opportunity to affirm the principles that we have long articulated and championed.

The arguments for postponing are emotionally powerful, but politically thin. As I understand them, they are: a) elections might be decided on the single issue of the pros and cons of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles; b) such a development might be harmful to national unity in Jordan; and, c) it might be unfair or inappropriate to allow Jordanians of Palestinian Origin (JOPOs, for short) to vote here and then to vote again in the governance council elections in Palestine, should they decide to move to Palestine in the next nine months. I think these arguments should be acknowledged but rejected, for many reasons:

1. Even if the Israel-PLO accord became a major election issue because the rejectionists want to make it into one, so what? What are elections all about, if not to decide on issues of public policy that seize the imagination or affect the future prospects of the voters? If the people think this is important, let them debate it and vote on it. If they elect a crazy Lower House, we have a more mature Upper House to hold their hand. We are mature enough to handle an election campaign even if it includes emotionally powerful issues. It would be a sign of weakness and lack of self-confidence to postpone the elections simply because these are times of change. National parliamentary elections are not picnics or parades that one holds when the weather is favourable, but postpones when the weather is changing. Are we less capable of handling elections than the people of Cambodia, Russia, Pakistan, Kuwait, Poland, Lebanon, and other troubled lands that have canvassed their people's views in moments of uncertain transitions? And if we postpone, for how long? When every last Jordanian of Palestinian Origin (JOPO) decides whether or not to return to Palestine? Who decides when that is? Who decides who is a JOPO?

2. In any case, I would argue, the Israel-PLO accord would not be a major election issue here. The rejectionists (the Islamists from the right and lefties from the left) may try

to make it an issue, and this is their right. But they would fail to make this the leading campaign issue, because, a) their opposition to date has gotten them nowhere and their support is probably under 25 per cent of the electorate; b) the vast majority of Palestinians, other Arabs, and relevant international parties support the accord, even if not always enthusiastically; c) the opposition of the Jordanian fringes will not impact on this reality; d) the maximalist slogans and verbal opposition we have heard are largely a discredited and ineffective rerun of the rhetoric of the third quarter of this century, which most Arabs have outgrown; e) for the government to fear the opposition's seizing on this issue, therefore, is to remain emotionally stuck in the quagmire of the 1950s and 60s and to continue fighting the political ghosts of the past; e), most voters are more concerned about quality of life issues

**"We are what we are and we stand proud today because we have always looked history straight in the face, grasped her truths, respected her forces, risen to her challenges and seized her opportunities."**

closer to home (jobs, water, education, health care, etc.), and the smart and successful candidates will run on these issues; f) the vast majority of the people of Jordan are too smart to be hijacked by a vocal minority pandering to their emotions rather than to their future well-being and that of their children.

3. Even if the accord were to dominate the election, is the government worried that a majority of voters would reject it? Once again, I ask, so what? Because, a) it is the people's right to offer their judgement on issues they consider important; b) Jordan is not a signatory to this accord and what Jordanian voters decide is interesting for Jordan mainly, but would not have a big impact elsewhere; c) and even if there were Jordanian popular rejection of the accord, this might be useful to strengthen the PLO's hand in its negotiations with Israel and thereby improve the chances of achieving the Palestinian and Arab national rights we have championed for most of this century. We could end up with better democracy, a better accord and better pan-Arab conditions. Not a bad deal.

**"It would be a sign of weakness and lack of self-confidence to postpone the elections simply because these are times of change. National parliamentary elections are not picnics or parades that one holds when the weather is favourable, but postpones when the weather is changing."**

4. The dangers to national unity are more imagined than real. The stresses resulting from the dual Jordanian/Palestinian demography of Jordan are largely rooted in the emotional pressures of mid-century political fusion between Jordanians and Palestinians. The political separation of Palestine and Jordan started in the early 1970s and passed through major milestones in the 1974 Rabat summit recognition of the PLO's sole representational status and the 1988 Jordanian disengagement from the West Bank. While government officials and politicians on both sides seem to focus disproportionately on the tensions of the past, the Jordanian and Palestinian people at the grassroots level have a much clearer understanding of the two key forces that define them today: the powerful bonds of demography, sociology, economy and history that unite them as sister cultures within a

The View from Fourth Circle

single family and the need for both people to manifest their distinct political identities on the basis of their own land, political systems and leaderships. Jordanians Of Palestinian Origin (JOPOs) are a unique, historical beast, shouldering two identities within themselves — the legal identity of full Jordanian nationals that they are and the still operative emotional identity stemming from their historical national denial in Palestine. JOPOs who might raise the issue of the denial in Palestine are not threats to Jordanian national unity, but peace accord are not threats to Jordanian national unity, but rather symbols of the forces of democracy and participatory politics that are, in the end, the only real guarantors of Jordan's identity, unity and future progress. In their actions during the last half a century, JOPOs have proven to be important pillars of the impressive modern development of Jordan. If a small minority of crazies might act or think otherwise, by what logic should the proud national progress of Jordan be suspended in order to appease such ideological extremism and emotional fringes in the Jordanian body politic?

5. There is nothing wrong with a few JOPOs voting in Palestine should they decide to repatriate to their ancestral land. Rather than fear such an unusual development, we should welcome it. It would be a one-time happening, in any case, and it would contribute to the stability of both Jordan and Palestine. How many Arab lands other than Jordan and Palestine could boast such a bountiful cornucopia of participatory democracy? Let our people vote twice or five times, but let them vote. We need more people voting in the Arab World, not less, to make up for our many past electoral deprivations.

6. In any case, many Jordanians and Palestinians already vote twice. Some vote in Jordan and in foreign countries where they have passports or permanent immigrant status; others vote in Jordan and also in Palestinian sectoral elections, for lawyers, writers, women's and students groups and associations of bummos and falafel makers, for all we know. Also, Jordanian law formally recognises dual citizenship; it accepts the right of Jordanians to vote, to own property, to take a nap or to engage in political bushes of mirrors and emotional Disneyland anywhere they wish to do so, here or abroad. Furthermore, if Palestinians may enjoy dual citizenship in the future, why not give those JOPOs who may return to Palestine an advance preview of the distinct pleasures of dual participatory democracy in the Jordanian and Palestinian lands which they love equally? What more eloquent statement could Jordan make about its political culture, its national unity, and its faith in pan-Arab democratisation as the sole legitimate future guarantor of this Arab nation's dignity and stability? To vote twice is to be doubly blessed with a dual Jordanian/Palestinian political culture of unrivalled Arab/Islamic compassion, fortitude, and self-confidence — and to be an important part of the parallel democratisation that allows the Jordanian and Palestinian people to express the powerful penchant for fraternity, integration and confederation that defines them both. What an honour and a thrill it will be one day to speak of POJOs — Palestinians of Jordanian Origin — and what a sense of security for our children as well.

7. This moment of historical reckoning in the Arab World demands that we face the realities of our culture, rather than take a giant step sideways into a more comfortable shopping mall world of soft music, endless pizzas, artificial landscapes and perpetual illusion. Jordan's strength as a country and the particular historical credibility of King Hussein personally both have always been based on making the tough decisions that were required when the moment of truth was at hand. Some of those decisions were not easy — the 1950s elections freeze, the 1967 war, the confrontation with Palestinians in the early 1970s, the economic adjustment and West Bank disengagement of 1988, the move towards redemocratisation in 1989, our stand in the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, our support for the Middle East peace talks in 1991 — and many resulted in lingering problems and pressures. Yet, we are what we are and we stand proud today because we have always looked history straight in the face, grasped her truths, respected her forces, risen to her challenges and seized her opportunities. We stand once again at precisely such a moment today.

© Rami G. Khouri

## Yeltsin — the cup of tea said it all

By Oliver Watts  
Reuters

MOSCOW — The gesture said it all.

Boris Yeltsin paused, stretched his hand out to a cup of tea just off camera, sipped deliberately and slowly, and then calmly announced to the world that he was overriding the constitution and imposing effective dictatorship on Russia for three months.

Gone was the puffy face and sickly visage often seen in past months, the sometimes uncertain gait and slurred speech that provoked charges of drunkenness or alarms about his health.

Gone was the indecision that had marked his presidency for the past year, the alternating threats and concessions offered to his rivals in the conservative parliament.

Now an almost autocratic arrogance was backed up by decrees putting the entire governance of the nation under his thumb.

By the weekend, with his opponents defecting or in disarray, the 62-year-old Russian president had won the first round.

Mr. Yeltsin has proved yet again that, however bumbling and awkward in normal politics, he thrives in a crisis.

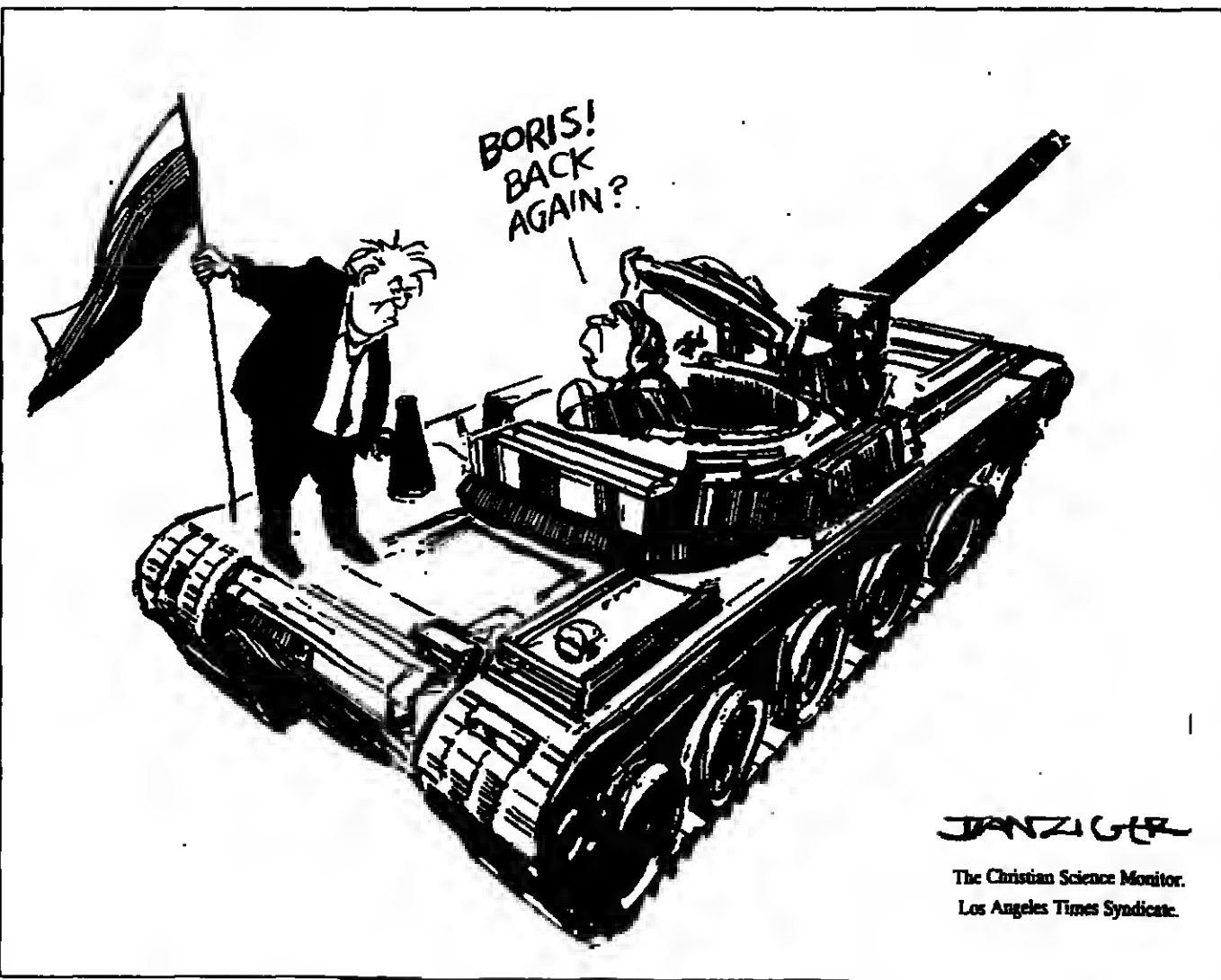
Later appearances told the same story. In a brief television interview on Saturday he allowed himself a dismissive joke at the expense of his main foe, Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi and parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov.

"I think soon there will be two men left there, Khasbulatov and Rutskoi," he said, referring to the parliament building where his enemies were trying to rally opposition.

"And I have no idea what they will be doing, the two of them in that building."

"At last Yeltsin has put his own plate," said a man of crisis, said a journalist, quipping a Russian saying.

This was the Yeltsin of August 1991, when he faced down a bungled communist coup.



rallying supporters from on top of a tank outside that same parliament building.

No quarter, no hesitation, and apparently no doubts.

Mr. Yeltsin, a former Communist Party apparatchik, has proved adept at political manoeuvring, rising from a provincial construction site in the Urals to the corridors of the Kremlin.

But he has never been entirely comfortable with the mechanics of the democracy he embraced after Mikhail Gorbachev had destroyed the Communist Party's monopoly

on power.

Last December he burned his bridges with the rival Congress of People's Deputies, the supreme legislature, with an impetuous speech in which he accused them of disgracing the nation.

All his efforts since then to rebuild them came to naught.

Rudical Yeltsin supporters expected dramatic action from the president in April after he won a vote of confidence in a referendum. But Mr. Yeltsin sought compromise with parliament, launching initiatives to adopt a new constitution, all

of which were resisted by deputies.

Now, with constitutional safeguards suspended until elections for a new parliament, Mr. Yeltsin seems at ease again.

"Yeltsin's indecision over the past three years was because he was trying to be a democrat," one political analyst remarked.

"Now he is in his mode of the master with a capital M. He knows he can reach his goal and he feels perfectly at ease. He doesn't have to pretend he is consulting everyone, listen-

ing to them, and so on."

Mr. Yeltsin insists he is only acting to remove the last vestiges of communism and install a true democracy in a country ruled throughout its history by autocrats. The West, and many Russians, are prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt. To calm any fears, he announced presidential elections for next June 12, the third anniversary of his original victory, two years ahead of time, and indicated he will stand again.

Among those not convinced is the man he ousted from the

Kremlin, the last Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Yeltsin will have all the finances and the media under his control," he said, referring to the parliamentary poll. "How can elections be fair in such circumstances?"

Mr. Yeltsin's almost uncanny ability to survive crises has been demonstrated time and again.

Five years ago he was sacked as Moscow head of the Communist Party and dismissed from the party's ruling politburo.

But dogged determination saw him secure the top seat of power, clinched by his resistance to the coup from behind the barricades around the parliament building.

His mentor and rival, Mr. Gorbachev, was forced into early retirement in December 1991, leaving Mr. Yeltsin as first among equals of the leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which succeeded the Soviet Union.

Mr. Yeltsin has bucked authority since his early days as a Communist Party official in the industrial city of Sverdlovsk.

When Mr. Gorbachev brought him to Moscow in 1985, he rose quickly to become a junior member of the party politburo, then the highest power in the land.

His demands for faster reform lost him favour and in 1988 he was sacked. But in March 1989 he was elected to parliament in the country's first multi-candidate elections.

In July 1990, he gambled again and stalked out of the Communist Party, winning increased popularity.

In June 1991 he won some 57 per cent of votes in the Russian Federation Republic to become its first executive president.

Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin was born on February 1, 1931. Party chief in Sverdlovsk from 1967 to 1985, he became a full member of the policy-making central committee in 1981. He has a wife, Naina, two daughters and three grandchildren.

مجلس الأمة



## Likud suggests bid to join Labour coalition

TEL AVIV (AP) — Torn by dissent over whether to accept parts of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord, the right-wing Likud party is signalling a readiness to rule jointly or in cooperation with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's coalition.

The suggestion from Likud lawmaker Michael Eitan came as the party grappled with growing opposition to party leader's Benjamin Netanyahu's strong rejectionist stance against the agreement signed Sept. 13 in Washington.

"We don't want to sit on the opposition benches just waiting for the government to tip," Mr. Eitan told Israel Radio Sunday. "We tell the government to accept our plan and receive our help," he added, referring to a list of conditions, including guarantees that Palestinians would not achieve statehood.

Officials in Mr. Rabin's office said they had no comment, and some in his Labour Party rejected the bid outright, saying Likud's tough demands could stall the peace process.

But the prospect of cooper-

ating with Likud could prove attractive to Mr. Rabin who needs a broad public consensus behind his peace moves with the Arabs.

Dissent in Likud against Mr. Netanyahu has grown in the wake of parliament's approval of the accord, granting Palestinians self-rule in parts of the occupied territories last Thursday.

The plan passed 61 to 50 with eight abstentions.

Some in Likud had hoped to muster more opposition. Others thought the party should resign itself to the plan's popularity and three lawmakers surprised colleagues by abstaining.

The moderates and some hawk, such as Ariel Sharon, a former defence minister, argued that the party should concentrate on attacking the agreement's weak points. Namely, that it leaves the door open to a Palestinian state at Israel's door step.

All in Likud are worried that if the accord succeeds, without their help, the Likud could speed many years on the opposition benches in parliament. Likud lost to Labour in

1992 after 15 years of dominance in government.

Labour and Likud ruled jointly in Israel between the 1967 Middle East war until 1970, and again after two indecisive elections in 1984-1988, and 1988-1990, when the arrangement blew apart primarily over differences about peacemaking strategies.

Mr. Eitan, a hardliner, said he would propose a joint government, or cooperation, with Likud leaders playing only a sideline role in the cabinet, at Likud's upcoming central committee meeting in October.

He cited precedents in 1967-1970 when the late former Premier Menachem Begin served as minister without portfolio in Israeli war cabinets, making him privy to decisions without holding a full cabinet job.

Mr. Netanyahu himself also did not rule out the idea in an interview with Israel Television, and said Likud had offered Mr. Rabin five conditions for receiving their cooperation.

He listed them as:

- Guaranteeing no Palestinian statehood in the occupied territories.
- Guaranteeing Jerusalem remain "united" under Israeli sovereignty.
- Guaranteeing the army's "freedom of action" in the occupied territories.
- Strengthening Jewish settlement.
- Not permitting a return of Palestinian refugees.

"We are not ready under any circumstances to accept conditions which would altogether halt the political process," responded Nissim Zivli, secretary-general of Mr. Rabin's Labour Party.

In a related development, parliament's house committee voted Sunday to strip former Interior Minister Aryeh Deri of the religious Shas party of parliamentary immunity so he could be tried on fraud allegations.

The full parliament votes on the question Oct. 16. Shas has threatened to quit the government if Mr. Deri is tried.

Mr. Rabin's 62-member coalition needs Shas' six seats for a majority in the 120-member parliament, although he has outside support from five Arab lawmakers.

## Clinton sees global role for U.S.

bear more of the financial burden," he said.

The United States currently pays about 25 per cent of the overall budget and about 30 per cent for peacekeeping ventures.

"If the American people are to say yes to peacekeeping, the United Nations must know when to say no," Mr. Clinton said.

He called for reform of the U.N. bureaucracy, which has been high on the U.N. agenda, to convince Congress to appropriate U.N. funds.

Washington wants the General Assembly to appoint an inspector general to investigate waste and fraud.

"I applaud the initial steps the secretary-general has taken to reduce and reform the U.N. bureaucracy, now we must do even more to root out waste... let us build new confidence among our people that the United Nations is changing with the needs of our times," he said.

Mr. Clinton also called for a new post of high commissioner for human rights and broke with republican administration policy by calling outright for new efforts to slow the world's explosive growth in population.

"We cannot afford to see the human race double by the mid-

dle of the next century," he said.

"Our nation has renewed its commitment to work with the United Nations to expand the availability of the world's family planning, education and services. We must ensure that there is a place at the table for every one of the world's children," he said.

His speech ended with warm applause from delegates. His wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, sat in the gallery watching him.

"It is a moment of miracles," Mr. Clinton proclaimed, citing peace accords between old enemies in the Middle East and South Africa and the fledgling democracies in Russia and in other formerly totalitarian states.

Still, Mr. Clinton added: "serious threats remain... even small conflicts can take on murderous proportions."

He vowed to oppose extremism wherever it emerged.

Mr. Clinton was one of the first speakers at the general debate which opened Monday.

During the next three weeks almost 50 heads of state and 100 foreign ministers will address the assembly.

The assembly is taking place under tight security, with roads leading to U.N. headquarters blocked and hundreds of police deployed around the building.



U.S. President Bill Clinton addresses the U.N. General Assembly Monday (AFP photo)

## PLO to name new delegates

(Continued from page 1)

issues and name an interim government in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

According to the agreement, Palestinian self-rule will gradually expand to all of the West Bank.

The daily Hadashot said Mr. Arafat's top aide Mahmoud Abbas would head the new delegation of working groups.

Mr. Abbas was an architect of the agreement with Israel.

Other Israeli reports said the next round of talks with Israel would take place either in Al Arish or Tabat, both in Egypt's Sinai desert.

But Palestinian delegates

could not confirm either report. They said that the PLO was now discussing the Israeli proposal to move talks to the Middle East.

Egypt is willing to host the talks if it will help push the peace process forward, an Egyptian official said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nagi Al Ghatrifi said: "Egypt is ready to host the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations implementing the Gaza-Jericho agreement if the two sides wish... and if this will push forward the peace process."

Egypt is the only Arab country to have made peace with the Jewish state, through a

treaty signed in 1979.

The treaty gave Egypt back all the Sinai, seized by Israel in the 1967 war, except Tabat. It took Cairo 10 more years of intense negotiations to get Tabat back.

Egypt helped broker the PLO-Israel accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

Despite the accord, details of the troop pullout and how to implement the autonomy accord still have to be worked out.

In New York, Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres defended the accord with the PLO during a meeting with U.S. Jewish leaders.

Speaking to the Conference of Presidents of the 48 Major American Jewish organisations, Mr. Peres outlined the history of the negotiations, and said he "realised that (the) PLO was so weak, that it can disappear."

Who would have taken its place? he asked. "Hamas, Iran?"

Commenting on the presence of the Israeli army in the occupied territories, Mr. Peres said, "it is not a job for a nation to police the life of another nation."

Mr. Peres also explained the bums Israel has set for the status of Jerusalem, and for the repatriation of Palestinian refugees.

He said Israel would refuse to "Berlize Jerusalem... Jerusalem is more than a place, it is a prayer, it is our spiritual identity."

Mr. Peres rejected the comparison between the return of Jews to Israel and Palestinians to their homeland, saying, "if you (PLO) have 22 other Arab states, we have only one state."

He added that it was necessary not to "reduce a majority (of Jews) in minority."

The foreign minister said he has asked the PLO not to "fight for political independence without economic success."

Asked about the safety of Jewish settlers in the occupied territories, Mr. Peres said, "we feel completely responsible for their safety, but it is becoming a Palestinian interest to show we can live in peace... peace becomes their interest as terror was their strategy."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kuwait to charge for local phone calls

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will start charging for local telephone calls next year for the first time but fees will be low, a senior official said in remarks published Sunday. Al Anba newspaper quoted Minister of Communications and Housing Habib Gohar Hayat as saying the unspecified charges would be introduced when previously announced plans to privatise the telephone service were carried out some time next year. Charges will be imposed only upon calls that exceeded an unspecified time limit, he said. "He assured citizens the charges would only be symbolic and would not cause any financial burden on the citizens in general. The charges would mostly involve the person who uses the phone excessively and more than usual," the newspaper reported. Kuwaiti officials trying to plug a Gulf war-inflated budget gap are weighing a range of modest reductions in the oil-funded welfare state the Gulf emirate has enjoyed in recent decades. Subscribers to the state telephone exchange currently pay only for international calls. Customers of private mobile phone companies pay for both local and international calls.

### Bodies of Frenchmen flown home from Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — The bodies of two Frenchmen killed recently in Algeria were flown home Sunday from the Oran airport, in western Algeria, an official said. The body of Francois Berthelet was flown to Marseilles and that of his co-worker was flown to Paris. The men, who were working for a French company, became the first foreign nationals Tuesday to be killed in Algeria since the start of violence between Islamic fundamentalists and government forces in January 1992. Meanwhile, the daily paper Liberte reported Sunday that about 20 armed and masked men had forced their way into homes in the village of 'Ait Boudaoud, some 100 kilometres east of Algiers, on Thursday night and stolen nine hunting rifles and a post office box. Liberte also reported Sunday that Algeria's special court had sentenced nine fundamentalists to death Saturday, for having set up an "armed organisation, keeping weapons and premeditated murder." They were found guilty of killing three members of the security forces.

## U.N. teams gear up for major Iraq mission

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Two teams of U.N. weapons experts arrived here Monday at the start of the biggest disarmament mission to Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war, officials said.

The teams are headed by Nikita Smidovich of Russia and Tim Trevan of the United States.

Mr. Smidovich told reporters before leaving for Baghdad from Manama, where the U.N. Special Commission for Disarming Iraq (UNSCOM) is based, that a total of more than 50 arms experts would arrive in Iraq over the next three days.

They are to conduct what Mr. Smidovich said would be the most comprehensive inspection of Iraq's weapon programme since the U.N. disarmament mission began following the Gulf war.

The latest inspection is the 63rd since a U.S.-led coalition of forces evicted Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991. The U.N. ceasefire terms call for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"We expect that the government of Iraq will fully cooperate with the inspection," said Mr. Smidovich.

"All depends on the result of this inspection," he stressed. "The special commission has approached the stage where it has to make the count of what has been done" in dismantling the Iraqi arsenal.

Mr. Smidovich will also prepare for the mission to Iraq of UNSCOM chief Rolf Ekus, starting Friday, for negotiations on long-term arms monitoring after surveillance cameras are switched on Saturday at two Iraqi missile test sites.

"So far, I think it is the biggest inspection," Mr. Smidovich said.

He said his team would draw up a report to the U.N. Security Council that would be crucial for determining future links between Iraq and the international community.

Iraq is seeking an end to the U.N. embargo imposed in August 1990 after its invasion of Kuwait.

The Security Council has argued the sanctions cannot be lifted until Baghdad complies in full with the ceasefire terms.

"We are still waiting answers from Baghdad to many questions, especially those concerning the suppliers' list and the arms programmes in the past," said Mr. Trevan.

The inspectors will start work on Thursday and cover Iraq's ballistic, chemical and biological programmes, said Mr. Smidovich. The mission was to last several weeks.

A team of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency is also expected in Baghdad on Thursday.

A U.N. official already in the Iraqi capital, Guy Martelle, said Sunday that arms experts had switched on cameras at two missile sites, setting the stage for long-term monitoring.

Six cameras, which Iraq had at first refused to have installed, have been activated at the Yawm Al Azim and Al Rafah ranges south of Baghdad.

In July, Iraq allowed the cameras to be installed, under the threat of U.S. air strikes if it failed to comply. But it refused to allow them to be activated.

UNSCOM and Iraqi officials held talks in New York earlier this month, during which Baghdad agreed in principle to cooperate with the United Nations if the Security Council would ease the embargo.

But Mr. Ekus, in a report released last week, said Baghdad had failed to meet U.N. demands for information on foreign suppliers for Iraq's biological, chemical and ballistic weapons.

There was no attack and the panic reportedly was set off by a backing truck.

Guards used ebbars and tables to set up barricades in the corridors after rumours of the imminent government attack swept the building. Such rumours have repeatedly gripped parliament, but Mr. Yeltsin has said he will not use force to end the protest.

Lawmakers claimed to have received telegrams of support from some army and navy units, but there was no sign of any military support for the hardliners. The mood in the building was increasingly despondent as about 100 lawmakers morosely deliberated what to do next.

Some 300 supporters, many of them elderly, slept on carpets in the corridors of parliament.

## Sukhumi falls to rebels

(Continued from page 1)

what could prove a fatal blow to Mr. Shevardnadze's tenuous hold on power in Georgia, which has been beset for 18 months by armed opposition as well as overwhelming political and economic adversities.

Prior to the fall of the city, Mr. Shevardnadze issued an urgent appeal on national radio in which he said the city would fall if fresh reinforcements did not arrive immediately.

A number of Georgian troops were reported Sunday to have fought their way into the surrounded city.

Aids to the Georgian leader said he had been "betrayed" by troops loyal to the ousted former president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, and a former defence minister who had pledged to help defend Sukhumi but then failed to show up.

## Kaddoumi explains reservations on deal

TUNIS (AFP) — Farouk Kaddoumi, the number two in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hierarchy, has outlined his objections to the Palestinian autonomy agreement signed with Israel, calling it a "gamble."

Mr. Kaddoumi, the PLO "foreign minister," came out against the pact on limited Palestinian self-rule and turned down the opportunity to sign the peace deal on behalf of the PLO.

Mahmoud Abbas, the PLO number three, signed the agreement instead of Mr. Kaddoumi at a White House ceremony in Washington on Sept. 13.

In a wide-ranging interview here on Sunday with AFP, Mr. Kaddoumi described the PLO-Israel agreement, under which the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho are to become autonomous on Oct. 13, as "a gamble, a risk."

"The PLO took a risk," he said.

The head of the PLO's political department said he had "four reservations" to the autonomy pact.

"First of all, I said I had some remarks to make against the agreement itself," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

"Secondly, I said that we should not sign an agreement together, with the other Arab parties."

"And finally, I said that I could not sign (any agreement) without being authorised to do so by the Palestine National Council," the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

Asked why, if he was opposed to the accord, he had been shuttling to Arab capitals to explain the agreement on behalf of the PLO, Mr. Kaddoumi said: "Because it has become a fact, a thing of the past."

On Monday, he was to leave the Tunis headquarters of the PLO headed for New York, where he will lead the PLO delegation to the 48th U.N. General Assembly.

Mr. Kaddoumi said that while in New York he "might" meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher but saw "no necessity" to arrange a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

He said immediate objectives were to "repair the damage" and "get things moving" towards "the total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territories and the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state."

Mr. Kaddoumi said he had explained his reservations about the agreement during a 90-minute meeting here Saturday with the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, John McCarthy.

"I told his excellency that the United States should officially recognise the PLO and that they should guarantee the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242," he said.

Mr. Kaddoumi also said that if asked to do so by the PLO leadership he was ready to meet leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which has rejected the PLO-Israel deal as a "sell-out."

Hamas has said it would boycott any meetings attended by PLO chief Yasser Arafat, throwing in question its participation at a Palestinian "reconciliation" meeting planned for next month in Yemec.

"We would rather not have such conditions, which block the way" towards reconciliation, Mr. Kaddoumi said.

"It is normal to have different points of view, but we should all be able to express ourselves freely, and to arrive at an agreement on that which unites us," he said.

## Yeltsin says no compromise

(Continued from page 1)

UJAR-TASS reported the general as saying.

Gen. Baranikov confirmed he was in constant contact with the security and Interior Ministry officials, Interfax said.

However, when questioned on whether or not he had himself accepted the post of security minister, he said: "When the current conflict is resolved, I will retire, and there will not be two security ministers."

Meanwhile, Iuri Maresenkov, the spokesman of Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, told ATF: "Gen. Baranikov will stay inside the building to prevent bloodshed."

The jittery lawmakers claimed early Monday that Mr. Yeltsin had ordered riot police to storm parliament and alerted their small ragtag volunteer defence force. But

there was no attack and the panic reportedly was set off by a backing truck.

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ment. A small group of volunteers, armed with rifles and dressed in military fatigues, stood guard.

There was no sign of trouble in Moscow on Monday as people headed for work and businesses and shops opened as normal. Commuter traffic streamed past the White House.

The lawmakers, headed by Vice President Alexander Rutskoi and Speaker Khasbulatov, have been holed up in parliament since Mr. Yeltsin ordered the legislature dissolved.

Mr. Rutskoi claimed Monday he would defend parliament to "the last bullet," but some lawmakers and aides complained privately that parliament's leaders did not know what to do and were increasingly desperate.

Flimsy barricades were erected around parliament by anti-Yeltsin supporters last Tuesday, but police have allowed lawmakers and their supporters to come and go freely most of the time. Lawmakers often leave the building to go home to wash, eat and rest.

Mr. Yeltsin appeared unperturbed by parliament's increasingly shrill attacks on him. Accompanied by Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, he waded into surging crowds Sunday on Red Square for a free concert by the Washington-based National Symphony Orchestra and its conductor, former dissident Mstislav Rostropovich.

A concert announcer urged "faith in the president and in Russia's future," and the crowd responded "Hurrah, Hurrah."

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## Finance officials focus on world economic woes

WASHINGTON (R) — Finance officials focused Sunday on unblocking years of world trade talks now that the weekend's easy task is out of the way — solidly backing Russia's Boris Yeltsin in his battle for economic reform.

Global trade czar Peter Sutherland told the International Monetary Fund (IMF) holding its annual meeting in Washington, that the world faces a firm deadline for a trade deal if nations want to prevent a dark descent into protectionism.

"Dec. 15th is the agreed deadline for the deal to be done," GATT chief Sutherland told the IMF's policymaking Interim Committee. "I can see no possibility whatsoever of another chance."

Mr. Sutherland has warned repeatedly, to little avail so far, that a collapse of the long-running Uruguay Round of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would put precarious growth at still greater risk.

Wrapping up the talks "is not an optional issue," he said.

The trade issue remains the most divisive on the world stage, although the United States told its trading partners they could do more for global growth.

"We tell the world that recovery will come next year," U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said. "We need to do more to make sure we have a strong recovery. Every industrial nation must do its part."

European finance leaders, however, were confident that Europe's recession was now turning into recovery, and Japan officials argued that the IMF's assessment, looking for

a slight contraction in Japan this year, was "too pessimistic."

The 116 nations in the GATT meanwhile want to break down barriers to trade, hoping to free up commerce and speed growth the world over, but national interests have so far blocked a successful conclusion.

In an encouraging sign, Paris hinted Sunday it may ease down in a trans-Atlantic farm dispute that has been the key stumbling block for the entire effort.

Resolving these squabbles that have stalled the trade round for seven years will be hard work — far harder than coming together behind embattled Yeltsin, as the Seven major industrial nations did in a ringing endorsement Saturday.

The Group of Seven, meeting for four hours Saturday afternoon, issued a statement throwing their weight behind president Yeltsin in his battle with anti-reform legislators, now barricaded in Moscow's White House parliament.

The ministers "praised President Yeltsin's commitment to pursue the path of market-oriented reform. They saw this path as the right one for creating a better future for Russia's people and for integrating Russia into the world economy."

While Mr. Yeltsin represents the best hope for free markets in Russia, finance officials agreed, wrapping up seven years of world trade talks remains the best way of ensuring that the global economy gets back on track.

Mr. Sutherland said that a study, released Monday, showed that trade liberalisation would add at least \$213

billion a year to global income by the year 2002.

But a dispute between France and the United States over farm trade threatens to poison the process, raising fears that nations will give up and protect themselves with the type of trade barriers that created the Great Depression.

"There is a danger that this particular problem could damage the atmosphere in terms of the resolution of other issues which also remain outstanding," Mr. Sutherland told reporters before his first address to the IMF.

The French have raised vehement objections to a farm deal that the European Community (EC) struck with the United States last November, insisting on changes to appease its farmers.

Washington in turn has ruled out any "clarifications" to the deal, which the EC had hoped would break the deadlock over the so-called Blair House farm accord.

The EC and U.S. trade chiefs are due to thrash out this and other GATT matters at a meeting Tuesday, but few expect any quick breakthrough.

"It will take several weeks before that can be completely settled," EC Vice President Henning Christophersen told reporters at the IMF.

Paris, however, began signalling signs of a thaw this past week and eased up on the veto threats over a farm deal that had isolated France at the GATT.

Washington is still standing firm. "We must solve the remaining issues rather than reopen agreements we've already reached," Mr. Bentsen said of the trade talks.

## IMF calls on industrial countries to boost growth

WASHINGTON (R) — Worried about sluggish growth and rising unemployment in the industrial world, the IMF's policymaking body Sunday called on rich nations to expand their economies.

"The committee stresses the need for fund members to continue action to promote a robust economic recovery and a sustained expansion," the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a communiqué.

The multilateral committee saw room for further interest rate cuts as inflation eases and budget deficits are reduced, laying the groundwork for an expansion in global growth.

As the recovery gains momentum, industrial countries will need to further reduce their budget deficits in order to increase savings and private investment, it said.

In another recommendation, the committee stressed the importance of completing current global trade talks, which are deadlocked in a dispute that threatens to cripple the seven-year negotiations. The talks face a Dec. 15 deadline.

While welcoming the strong economic expansion in many developing countries, it voiced "particular concern" about the plight of many of the poorest nations, especially in Africa, which are barely expanding.

Getting down to specifics, a committee official said there was further room for Europe to cut its interest rates and bring the continent out of a deep recession.

"The scope in Europe to reduce short-term interest rates, that scope should be used," Philippe Maystadt, chairman of the committee, told a news conference. Mr. Maystadt is also Belgian finance minister.

## Italy's Gucci bought by Investcorp

MILAN (R) — An Arab-backed investment bank Monday became the sole owner of luxury goods maker Gucci, once a symbol of Italian designer chic but whose reputation had become tarnished by family feuds and tattered finances.

Bahrain-based Investcorp and Maurizio Gucci, co-owner and company chief executive, said in a joint statement the investment bank had bought its former partner's 50 per cent stake for an undisclosed sum.

The decision ends a year-long battle for control of the loss-making leathergoods and clothing company between Gucci and his one-time financial backers that had threatened to paralyse the group's operations.

## U.S. says global recovery cannot wait

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States warned its rich allies Sunday that the global economy cannot afford to wait much longer for a recovery, but its partners signalled that the world might not have to.

"We cannot afford another year in which we tell the world that recovery will come next year," Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen told the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "We need to do more to make sure we have a strong recovery."

He called for interest rate cuts in Europe and lower taxes in Japan to help spark a global upturn and bring an end to four years of lagging growth. While not denying that more may have to be done, ministers from Europe and Japan said their economies looked to have weathered the worst and that an upturn was on the horizon.

"We are at the bottom of the recession," French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery told reporters in Washington. "It is possible that we are going to see a scenario of coming out

of crisis in the next few months in France."

Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii told the IMF that the worst was "arguably" over for the Japanese economy, thanks in part to pump-priming measures taken by the government and an interest rate cut by the central bank.

Sunday's comments seemed to mark the continuation of a debate between United States and its allies over the outlook for the world economy and how urgently they need to act to spur global growth.

That debate was muted at Saturday's meeting of the Group of Seven, partly because economic policymakers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States effected not to issue any communiqué after their talks.

But that does not mean that they don't have their differences. The United States wants Japan to reform its tax system in such a way that it boosts its

economy, preferably by cutting income taxes. But tight-fisted Japanese bureaucrats at the country's powerful finance ministry are resisting.

The United States also wants Europe to cut interest rates to snap its economy out of recession. European nations agree that rates should head lower, but it's not clear that will happen quickly enough to satisfy Washington.

Mr. Bentsen painted a mostly grim picture of the economic outlook in Europe and Japan. In Europe, unemployment is over 10 per cent and rising, and there's no sign of a vigorous recovery on the horizon. Japan too is in recession, Mr. Bentsen said. Its trade surplus is growing and disputes with its trading partners mounting.

"We still have a way to go to achieve the kind of strong, job-creating growth that will put back to work the 34 million men and women who are unemployed in the OECD (industrialised) countries alone,"

the U.S. treasury secretary said.

For their part, policymakers from Europe and Japan seemed to prefer to accentuate the positive.

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel saw positive signals for the world economy, even though the U.S. and British recoveries were progressing more slowly than anticipated and continental Europe and Japan were still stagnating.

Inflation in industrial nations is at its lowest level in 20 years, major countries have acknowledged the need to reduce budget deficits and restructure their economies and the volatile European currency market has calmed down.

"Against this background, the industrial countries... definitely have good prospects of emerging from recession into sustained non-inflationary growth," Mr. Waigel told the IMF.

That better happen soon, or the economic debate between the United States and its allies won't be quiet for long.

## Investors take cold, hard look at Russian trade

LONDON (R) — As Russian President Boris Yeltsin consolidates his grip on power, investors are taking a long, hard look at what is at stake in the long term.

"It's never fun when you are already invested to have this kind of thing happen, said Bill Browder, Salomon Brothers' eastern European vice president. "But for people sitting on the sidelines, clearing out the parliament and creating a clearer decision-making structure is actually good for investors."

With the spectre of civil war and nuclear bombs never far from world consciousness, Western analysts are doing their sums as they await the final outcome in Moscow.

"Price declines in key markets have been less volatile than the comparable situation on Aug. 19, 1991," said Smith New Court's Gordon Muir-Carrie, referring to the hard-line camp attempt two years ago.

About half eastern Europe's gas consumption and a third of its crude oil and oil products supply comes from Russia — but energy is also Russia's biggest source of hard currency.

Finland is 100 per cent dependent on gas imports from the CIS, with Austria at 81 per cent and Germany at 47 per cent, according to research from Goldman Sachs International.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including Russia, produces 44 per cent of world platinum and 27 per cent of nickel but analysts say a glut of commodities has driven prices down and Russian sugar, wheat or cotton would not be missed.

Finland and Germany send 3.9 per cent and 2.5 per cent of their exports to Russia. Italy sends 1.7 per cent and Spain one per cent, but the United States, France, Japan and Britain are all less than that.

The latest political upheaval lends extra menace to the uncertainty stalking what some saw as a 20th-century Klondike.

It was not just the lure of Siberia's Sukhoi log goldfields and the geas of the Lomonosov diamond seam — there were "Klondykes" in oil, gas, telecoms and financial services.

In 1990-2, private investors committed more than \$2.8 billion in capital investment, and 20 firms looked at an oil/gas tender in Uzbekistan, including Texaco, Mobil and Argentina's Bidas S.A.

"Everyone is in there... not always investing, but looking around. Try to make a reservation."

## Forte Grand promotes tourism

FORTE Grand Amman, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian, hosted the visiting group of German women "Petras to Petra" to assist in the campaign to promote Jordan's tourist attractions to orient the German public on the treasures of the country.

The campaign "Petras in Petra" was an innovative idea that brought to Jordan 50 German women named "Petra" which happens to be one of the most popular female names among Germans. The party stayed two days in Jordan's Petra, one of the most fascinating tourist attractions.

The party were received in Petra by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein and the secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism and were accompanied by Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat.

## OPEC raises oil output ceiling to 24.5 million barrels per day

GENEVA (R) — OPEC members agreed Monday to set a new oil output ceiling for the fourth quarter designed to boost crude prices off three-year lows, Secretary General Subroto of Indonesia told reporters.

But he added that the trickier task of allocating production quotas among individual members still lay ahead as ministers broke into small groups for more consultations.

Emerging from a plenary session on the third day of Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) strategy talks, Dr. Subroto said the group had decided to pump 24.5 million barrels of oil per day (b/d) for the October-December quarter.

That raises the 23.6 million b/d output cap that OPEC set for itself in June but has roundly ignored, saturating the market with crude amid weak global demand.

But it is a bit less than what independent monitors say OPEC is currently producing, which could help reverse a price slide that has lopped a fifth off the value of OPEC oil this year.

Demand for OPEC oil traditionally rises during the northern winter, so the new ceiling — if adhered to — could boost prices now languishing nearly \$6 below OPEC's \$21 target.

Markets extended earlier gains on the news, with benchmark North Sea Brent futures for November delivery up 39 cents a barrel to \$16.68 in London trading.

Dr. Subroto said a rare telephone call Monday between leaders of Saudi Arabia and Iran — OPEC's two biggest producers and traditional rivals in the group — had helped secure the new ceiling.

"The telephone call was very

positive. It set the stage," he told reporters.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani discussed OPEC matters with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, saying the two countries should cooperate to raise oil prices, Tehran radio reported.

It said President Rafsanjani "stressed the necessity of joint efforts and cooperation by the two countries to stabilise and raise oil prices to their real levels."

The radio quoted King Fahd as saying in reply, "in the current OPEC meeting, the oil ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia can pave the ground for cooperation to raise oil prices by greater discussion and exchange of views."

King Fahd, too, "stressed the importance of common efforts by the two countries within the OPEC framework," the radio said.

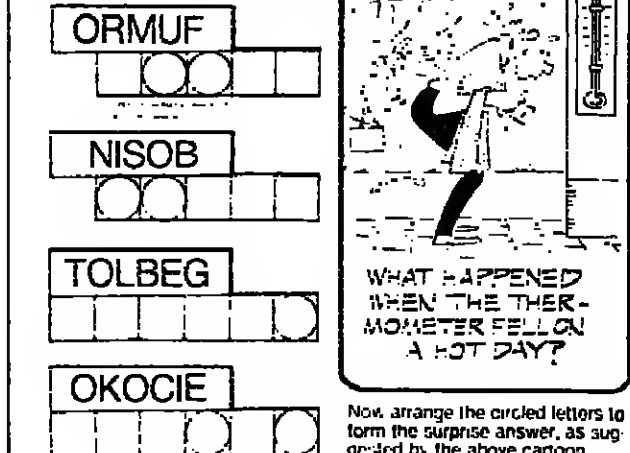
## THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



"There's a machine at my gym that gives my lips greater strength and endurance—pucker up!"

## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLE WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now, arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:  (Answers tomorrow)

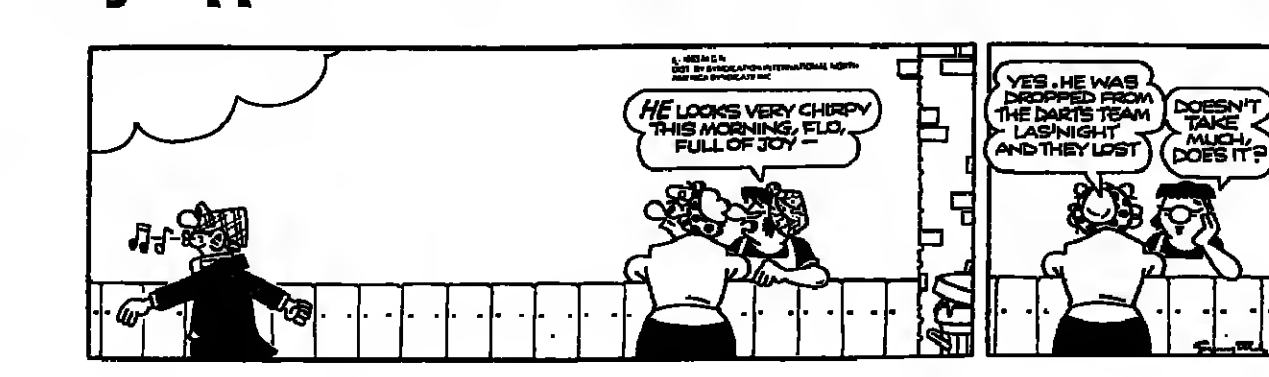
Yesterday's Jumbles: FEVER BORA ARTERY SLEEPY

Answer: What the redcap who went into foreign trade was—AN EX-PORTER

## Peanuts



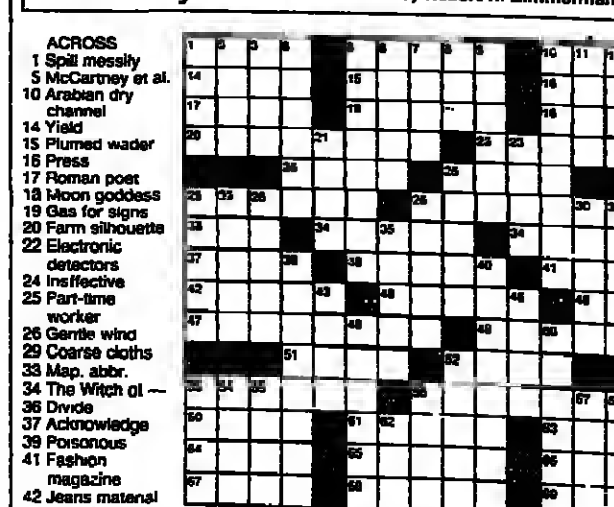
## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE Daily Crossword by Robert R. Zimmerman





## Egypt ready to build joint refinery with Israel



# Izetbegovic briefs assembly on dangers of continuing war

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic Monday outlined the details of the Geneva peace plan to Muslim assembly summoned a day ahead of a parliamentary session which is formally to decide whether to accept the deal.

Monday's meeting had all the appearance of a dress rehearsal for the parliamentary session, which is to be held Tuesday afternoon, after the assembly has rendered its own verdict on the peace deal, probably early Tuesday.

Parliament is sovereign in deciding whether to accept the peace plan. But the deputies are expected to follow the assembly's lead, said many of those attending the assembly meeting at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

Listing nine pros and five cons in considering the peace package he has negotiated with warring Bosnian Serbs and Croats, Mr. Izetbegovic highlighted the dangers of continuing the 18-month-old war.

He noted that Muslim forces were on the defensive, a second front had been opened against the Bosnian Croats and

winter was approaching.

"The situation in Russia is also getting complicated and this could turn world attention away from the plight of Bosnia," he warned the 352 people attending the meeting, among them much of the country's top civil, political and military leadership.

The main reason for refusing to sign the peace was that Serbs and Croats would retain most of the territory they had conquered from Muslim-led government forces, he said.

Muslim-led Bosnia would have 47 per cent of the country's population, but only 30 per cent of the territory, he added.

Assembly coordinator Alija Isakovic said for his part that if Bosnia accepted partition "we should consider this an imposed and temporary solution."

Under the terms of the peace package, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) would deploy some 50,000 troops, half of them American, with French and British contingents of 8,000 men each to help implement the peace plan.

The three Bosnian republics

— which initially would remain within a loose Bosnian confederation — would be demilitarised.

Mr. Izetbegovic acknowledged that he had not yet received written international guarantees about implementing the plan.

"The fact that international guarantees have not yet been given might influence a significant number of people not to accept the plan," Mr. Isakovic warned.

After the first couple of hours, the meeting, held amid tight security and occasional blackouts caused by failure of the hotel generators, was closed to guests and journalists and debate continued behind closed doors.

U.N. mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg defended the plan to split Bosnia-Herzegovina into three ethnic republics, saying there was no political will to look for another solution to the conflict.

"There are neither resources nor the political will to press for other solutions, even though I personally can imagine a better arrangement,"

Mr. Stoltenberg told Norway's national news agency NTB before flying to New York to meet U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali.

If the Bosnian Muslims reject the treaty, Mr. Stoltenberg said, the world community would have to face escalated fighting and a climate that would not favour fresh talks for a long time.

The former Norwegian foreign minister, appointed U.N. negotiator last April, said there were still big problems linked to the implementation of the peace plan, even if it were to be adopted by the Bosnian parliament.

"If we can't make the plan work, new fighting might erupt," he said.

Mr. Stoltenberg said there was no realistic alternative to a partition of Bosnia, dividing the republic along ethnic lines into Serb, Muslim and Croat regions.

"Priority number one is to stop the killing. The alternative to a partition is only more hatred, more violence and more ethnic cleansing," Mr. Stoltenberg said.

## Major pledges support for De Klerk

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major pledged Sunday to support steps to secure World Bank loans for South Africa and to encourage investment in the country after meeting President F.W. De Klerk.

Mr. De Klerk met Mr. Major for one hour and discussed investment, the political situation in southern Africa and the president's commitment to a full, non-racial democracy.

Mr. Major said in a later statement that legislation establishing the Transitional Executive Council, which gives blacks their first official role in running the country, was a "tremendously important step."

"It has placed South Africa firmly on the road towards full, non-racial democracy," said Mr. Major.

The European Community, and the Commonwealth had lifted sanctions, Mr. Major said, adding "South Africa should now have access to international financial institutions."

"We shall support lending by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to South Africa," he said.

"We shall support other steps designed to encourage investment in South Africa, including the conference on South Africa which the Confederation of British Industry (employers group) is holding on Oct. 12."

Mr. Major said the question of South Africa's relationship with the Commonwealth would be one for a future South African government and



British Prime Minister John Major (left) and South African President F.W. De Klerk hold a joint press conference in London (AFP photo).

for the Commonwealth as a whole to decide.

"But I personally hope to see South Africa's return to the Commonwealth, just as I look forward to South Africa playing a full part in all international bodies."

South Africa became a republic and withdrew from the Commonwealth in 1961 after a referendum of white voters.

Major also sent a message to the people of South Africa. "I urge them all to turn away from the violence which has scarred their country. I urge them all to take advantage of this new opening."

Mr. De Klerk flew in from Washington, where he called for international financial aid and corporate investment to

develop South Africa's natural resources and help move the country toward a multi-racial democracy.

"We don't ask for hand-outs," he told reporters at London's Heathrow Airport.

"We obviously want not just sanctions to be lifted, as they were in Britain a long time ago, but we need to move into a different sort of mode, a mode of actual encouragement."

"We need jobs, and for that we need positive support with regard to creating a climate for investment," he said.

South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha said Monday that from a practical point of view South Africa had resumed its place at the United Nations.

## Briton gets 52-year jail term on drugs charge

BANGKOK (R) — A British man has been sentenced by a Thai criminal court to 52 years and eight months in jail for possessing narcotics, an enforcement official said Sunday. Andrew Robert McGarrity, 32, from Sussex, was arrested by officers of the Narcotics Suppression Bureau in July 1992 after they found 2.8 kg (6.17 pounds) of heroin and 150 grammes (5.25 ounces) of concentrated amphetamine in his hotel room in Bangkok. The criminal court was told before Friday's sentencing that Mr. McGarrity had refused to open the door of his room when approached by police and also had tried to snatch his luggage from the officers who wanted to search his bag. The court initially sentenced Mr. McGarrity to death, the maximum sentence here for possession and trade in narcotics, but commuted it because the Briton had pleaded guilty to the charges and cooperated with the police investigation, the Bangkok Post said.

## U.K. recession shakes confidence in marriage

LONDON (R) — A stubborn economic recession has undermined marriage in Britain but most people still have faith in the institution, a new poll released Sunday showed. Eleven per cent more people think marriage is dead than in 1989 when the economic outlook was rosier, the survey by the Times newspaper found. Asked by opinion pollsters Mori if they agreed that "marriage is dead," 74 per cent said no, while 16 per cent said yes and 10 per cent offered no view. The survey showed sharp differences in attitudes towards marriage in different social classes. Only one in 10 people in professional and managerial classes said they thought marriage was dead, compared with 23 per cent of unskilled people.

## British Film Institute honours Eastwood

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles presented American film star Clint Eastwood with a fellowship from the British Film Institute (BFI) for his unique contribution as an actor and director to the film world. Eastwood, 62, known for his "spaghetti westerns" filmed in Italy and his role as a police officer in Dirty Harry, received the award, the BFI's highest accolade, at London's National Film Theatre in front of a celebrity audience. BFI Chairman Jeremy Thomas said: "As the institute celebrates its 60th anniversary we are delighted to be honouring (one) of the industry's most respected figures." Past recipients of BFI fellowships include Bette Davis, Lord Olivier, Orson Welles, Lord Attenborough, Vanessa Redgrave, Japanese Director Akira Kurosawa, French director Marcel Carné and Indian director Satyajit Ray.

## Stuntman rides the falls twice — and survives

NIAGARA FALLS, Ontario (AP) — A man who rode a barrel over the Niagara Falls eight years ago did it again Sunday, becoming the first person known to have survived two plunges over the cataract. John David Munday went over the Canadian Horseshoe Falls in a home-made padded barrel before a crowd of supporters and shocked tourists. The 176-foot (53-metre) drop left him unconscious in his barrel at the bottom of the horseshoe falls. He was rescued by the crew of a tour boat, "Oh God, it hit hard," Mr. Munday said shortly after emerging from the barrel, shaken and pale. Mr. Munday, 57, of Caistor Centre, Ontario, suffered several bruises and cuts but refused hospitalisation, said George Bailey, spokesman for the Niagara Parks Commission in Ontario. Mr. Bailey said Mr. Munday was the first to survive two rides over the falls. He also is believed to be the oldest person to take the dive. His red-and-white padded barrel, about 4 feet (1.2 metres) in diameter, bore images of the Canadian flag. Mr. Munday first took the Niagara Falls plunge on Oct. 5, 1985, the 13th person known to have done so since the turn of the century. Four of those people were killed. After Sunday's plunge, police charged Mr. Munday. Mr. Bailey said, although he didn't know what charge was filed. However, he said Mr. Munday could face a maximum \$10,000 fine if convicted.

## Major gap remains in Hong Kong talks

PEKING (AFP) — China and Britain ended here Monday a 12th round of slow-moving talks on democratic reforms for Hong Kong with the chief British negotiator saying major differences remained between the two sides.

"I think it is no secret to say that we have not made as much progress as we would have wished," British Ambassador Robin McLaren said as the two sides announced a 13th round would be held on Oct. 11 and 12.

"There is still a substantial gap" over arrangements for the last elections before the British colony reverts to Chinese rule in 1997, Mr. McLaren said, but stressed his team had been "very constructive in our approach."

He told reporters outside the British embassy he hoped it would still be possible to reach an agreement with China, but repeated Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's warning "there is not indefinite time remaining."

In his first policy speech in

October last year, Mr. Patten proposed broadening the franchise in 1994 and 1995 elections in Hong Kong. Peking threatened to dismantle the local government and legislature after 1997 should Britain implement the plan unilaterally.

Meanwhile, Governor Patten, reviled by China in the past year as a "prostitute" and a "tango dancer," has been invited to its National Day reception this week, a Hong Kong government spokesman said Monday.

## Kim vows aid if N. Korea settles nuclear row

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Yong-Sam told a senior Chinese official Monday Seoul was ready to offer economic help to North Korea if it removed suspicions about its nuclear programme.

Mr. Kim also told visiting Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing that he hoped Peking would continue to play an important role in resolving the nuclear issue, a government spokesman said in a written statement at the end of the talks.

Mr. Li met Mr. Kim soon after arriving for a six-day visit and discussions focused on the nuclear problem and economic cooperation between Seoul and Peking.

"He also said the South was willing to help North Korea to come out of economic crisis by actively promoting economic cooperation between the South and North if the nuclear issue is resolved," the statement said.

The statement was issued shortly before reports out of Vienna that North Korea had cancelled fresh talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) over inspection of its nuclear facilities.

IAEA officials said North Korean Atomic Energy Minister Choe Hak-Gun had stated his country objected to the issue of its suspected nuclear weapons capabilities, being brought before the IAEA's annual conference in Vienna.

Last March the North said it was withdrawing from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) rather than submit to mandatory inspections by the nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The North later suspended its pullout under heavy pressure from the United States, South Korea and their allies. But it has so far continued to bar the U.N. agency from checking two sites.

## U.K. Labour battles for union support

BRIGHTON, England (R) — British Labour leader John Smith fought Monday for the trade union support he needs to push through party reforms in what promises to be a cliff-hanger vote.

"The arithmetic is moving towards him and when the vote is counted Wednesday, he will win," said Labour finance spokesman Gordon Brown as the annual party conference opened in this southern seaside resort.

The stakes are high with Mr. Smith's authority on the line and three days of intense lobbying needed to assure him of victory Wednesday. The result is still too close to call.

Mr. Smith, fearing that trade union domination will bring the party a fifth consecutive election defeat, wants to end the union black vote in the selection of parliamentary candidates and replace it with

OMO — one member, one vote.

Under the century-old block system the unions, which provide two-thirds of Labour's funds, cast a block vote of 40 per cent in the selection of the party's parliamentary candidates.

Four unions swung behind Mr. Smith Sunday but others are still implacably opposed in what is the first major test of his 15-month-old leadership of the party.

Fierce opponent John Edmonds of the General GMB Union told a radio interviewer: "We cannot just tear up the rights of four million trade unionists who after all pay the money that supports the party and are affiliated members of the party."

But Mr. Smith's predecessor, Neil Kinnock, said the idea that a plot was afoot to exclude trade unionists was a

fantasy.

"I think things are very much moving in John's direction and rightly so," he said.

Mr. Kinnock said that in the unlikely event of Mr. Smith losing, his authority would not be dented. "The worst that would happen... is that we come back to it again next year because the change is going to come."

Mr. Smith, a 55-year-old Scottish barrister, insists that this is not a "make or break" resignation issue, but the leading reformer has said he is prepared to return to the conference for a second vote Thursday if he does not win the day on OMOV.

Despite the best efforts of party managers to concentrate minds on the first day debates on health, education and the economy, the "battle of OMOV" dominated the conference opening.

## Italy's Northern League threatens to set up separate parliament

CURNO (Italy) (AFP) — Northern League leader Umberto Bossi has threatened to withdraw his party's 80 deputies and senators from the national parliament in order to set up a federal assembly for northern Italy.

"It will be the first parliament of the Northern Republic in a federal Italian state," Mr. Bossi told thousands of cheering supporters in this northern town Sunday.

Outlining his plan to turn Italy into a federation of regions, Mr. Bossi repeated that he would call for mass tax evasion as a way to demonstrate support for a Northern Republic.

The second step in his three-stage plan would be the holding of a "referendum" on the federation issue.

In his two-hour speech Sunday, Mr. Bossi did not say how he would organise this referendum, which would almost certainly be opposed by the central government, but he implied in an interview with the weekend paper La Stampa that it would take the form of an opinion poll.

The final stage would be for the Northern League's 55 deputies and 25 senators to resign en masse from the parliament in Rome and set up an assembly for northern Italy, Mr. Bossi said.

The populist leader, who is accused of xenophobia and rightwing extremism by his political rivals, went out of his way to explain his recent statement on Italian judges.

Mr. Bossi provoked an outcry last week when he said "the life of a judge who wishes to investigate the Northern League is worth 300 lire — the price of a bullet."

In his Sunday speech, Mr. Bossi said the comment was an "ironic joke" aimed not at the judiciary as a whole, but only those judges who would investigate the party.

For more than a year Italian judges have been investigating political parties on allegations of corruption and links with the mafia. The investigations have provoked the resignations of numerous cabinet ministers and high-ranking party officials.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rainstorms lash Western Europe

GRENOBLE, France (R) — Autumn storms lashed Western Europe at the weekend, killing at least six people, as rampaging rivers destroyed streets, bridges and railways in Italy, France and Switzerland. Four people were killed in the Piedmont region of northwest Italy Saturday when the Dora Baltea River, swollen by several days of rain, burst its banks. Among the victims were an elderly couple who drowned when their car was swept away. A torrent of water that roared through the centre of the Swiss town of Sion killed a 45-year-old woman and buried streets under tonnes of grey silt. The body was carried a block by the torrent and tossed into a shoe shop. A 65-year-old Swiss hiker was killed in a mudslide caused by pelting rain in the French Alps. His body was found by rescue workers alerted by a hotel manager in the village of Lans-Le-Villard who noticed the tourist had not returned. The death was at least the fifth in France after five days of frequently torrential rain.

### China detains Hong Kong reporter

PEKING (R) — China said Monday it had arrested a Chinese reporter working for a Hong Kong newspaper and charged him with spying. The official Xinhua News Agency said Xi Yang, a reporter for the British colony's Ming Pao newspaper, was charged with "espionage regarding state secrets on banking." Xinhua did not give details but said others were under arrest. It did not identify them. "All the other people involved in the case had previously been caught by state security departments," it said. A Ming Pao editor in Hong Kong called for Mr. Xi's release. "We are in the process of trying to find out exactly what has happened. We haven't been able to talk to him," Deputy Editor-in-Chief Simon Fung said. "He is one of our reporters on the China beat. He has a lot of good contacts in China."

### 50,000 N. Koreans guard Kims

TOKYO (R) — North Korea maintains a special 50,000-strong force armed with missiles and tanks to guard President Kim Il-Sung and his son Kim Jong-Il, the daily Yonhwa newspaper reported Monday. The daily said the disclosure came from Kim Myong-Chol, a former member of the unit who defected to South Korea in July. The defector said the special force, separate from the country's main armed forces, was directly under the Stalinist president's command. The 33-year-old defector said the force was prepared to take action should the military rebel against the Kim's government.

### Campbell struggles to boost election bid

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — Prime Minister Kim Campbell, facing a plunge in her Conservative Party's popularity, ran into opposition from gay protestors on her election campaign trail. She got a mixed welcome from the 10,000 participants at an AIDS charity walk in downtown Vancouver, her home constituency that has one of Canada's biggest gay communities. On the defensive over opposition claims she would axe social programmes, Ms. Campbell sought to project a caring image. But her remarks were drowned out at times by gay protesters, who say she has not lived up to promises to protect homosexual rights and fund AIDS research. "I want to say as prime minister that my Canada includes everyone here," Ms. Campbell said. "It's always going to be a source of frustration for us in a time of limited resources to try to meet all the needs that we have." Less than a month before the Oct. 25 election, Ms. Campbell is starting to look more like an underdog than confident incumbent. A Gallup poll released this weekend showed support for her party has dropped sharply.

## Angola: Rebels redeploying for battle

LUANDA (AFP) — Angola's UNITA rebels have begun a major redeployment of troops in the south of the country, preparing for fresh combat in defiance of U.N. sanctions, government military officials said here Monday.

Over the weekend, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) attacked at Quiquendo, Matala and Cacula in the southern Huila province, and

the army captured six rebel anti-aircraft missiles, officials added.

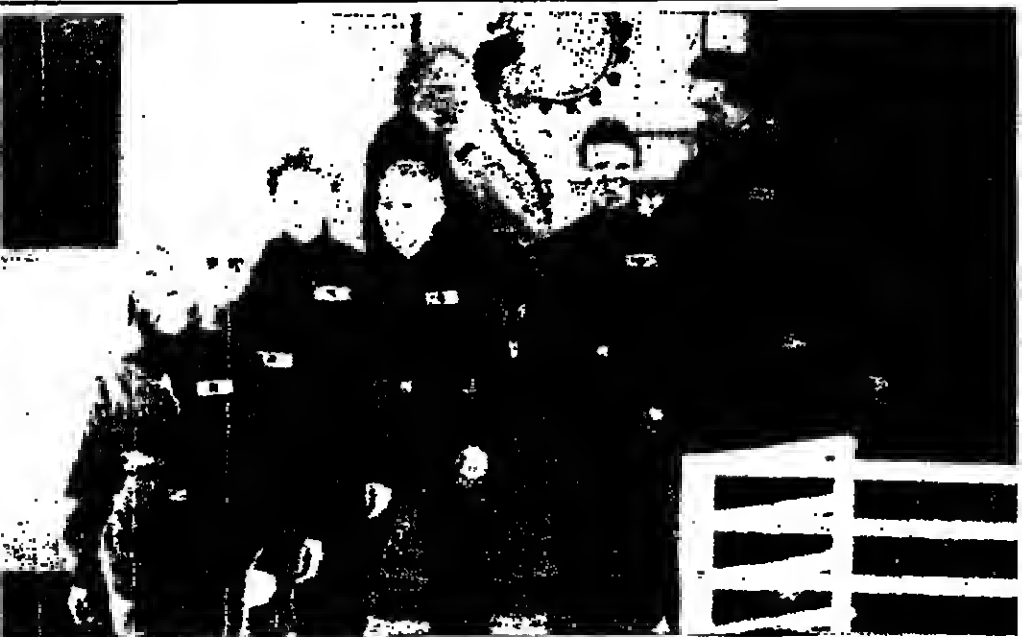
Redeployments on an "intensive scale" had begun at Kuvango in Huila province, close to the borders of two provinces held by the rebels, Bie in central Angola and Cuando Cubango in the south.

The government holds only the chief town of Cuando Cubango, Menongue, while the chief town of Bie, Cuito, has been under UNITA siege

since January at an estimated cost of at least 13,000 lives.

The UNITA troops' movements came within two days of the enforcement at 0400 GMT Sunday of a U.N. Security Council arms and oil embargo against the rebels to pressure them to stop fighting and return to negotiations.

The redeployment also follows days of relative calm on the battlefronts, after heavy clashes particularly at Cuito last week.



After two years of voluntary confinement in the Biosphere 2 project, the eight crew members of

the project stepped back into the Earth's atmosphere (AFP photo)

## Biospherians adjust life back on Earth

ORACLE, Arizona (R) — The eight-member crew of Biosphere 2 were adjusting to life back on Earth after two years in a 20th century Noah's Ark.

They left the world's largest test tube Sunday after setting a record for staying in a sealed environment.

"It's going to be different. Already I feel sort of strange," said Sally Silverstone, a systems specialist from England, and one of the two crew co-captains.

Jayne Poynter, an agriculturalist who was in charge of the crops and farm animals inside the enclosure, said she would miss the day-to-day contact with her charges.

"As I milked the goats this morning and fed the chickens there was a lump in my throat," she said.

Eight new crew members will take over the Biosphere in February 1994 for another two-year mission, and 60 scientists from all over the world will carry out analyses of the progress of the last two years.

Only one of the four-man, four-woman crew is not staying in the permanent employ of Space Biosphere Ventures, the

privately owned company that operates the Biosphere.

Dr. Ray Walford, an expert on ageing and the oldest Biospherian at 69, will resume running a laboratory on ageing at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

The Biospherians left behind them more than a thousand species of insects, birds, animals and fish in Biosphere 2, which is intended as the prototype for a manner colony on Mars.

They also hoped they had left behind a welter of criticism — complaints that the project was scientifically invalid and not much more than a giant publicity stunt with money-making as the main object.

More than 100,000 paying visitors a year have braved the desert heat to see Biosphere 2 and watch the crew at work from the vantage point of huge windows.

"They said it couldn't be done. Well, here we are, healthy and happy," said Mark Nelson, a biologist and a co-founder of Space Biosphere Ventures as a crowd of 2,000 greeted the Biospherians as they emerged Sunday.

During their time in the

Biosphere, the crew set a new record for living in a closed system, surpassing the previous record of six months set by Russian researchers.

The four men and four women, who are all single, grew 80 per cent of their own food, the other 20 per cent being obtained from stores placed in the Biosphere before they entered.

They studied, insects, animals, birds and fish in five artificially created environments: a tropical rain forest, a tropical Savannah, a marsh, a desert and an ocean.

Biosphere 2, a huge glass and steel structure nestling in the gully-riddled foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains 64 kilometres north of Tucson, consists of a series of seven connected domes and spires, some rising five stories tall.

The 7.2-million-cubic-foot (2.1 million cubic metres) enclosure has four acres of glass and is the second largest terrarium, the largest being Earth itself, which the designers refer to as Biosphere 1.

The other Biospherians are Abigail Alling, Linda Leigh, Taber MacCallum and Mark Van Thillo.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Equestrian championship begins in Aqaba today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Queen Alia International Equestrian Championship begins in Aqaba Tuesday. Participants from Syria, Qatar, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan will be competing over four days in eight individual and team events. Popular singers Odeh Ziyadat and Osama Jalbour and comedians Hisham Yonis and Nabil Sawalha in addition to the Ma'an Folklore Troupe will be taking part in the opening ceremony.

Van Basten faces continued lay-off

MILAN (R) — The condition of AC Milan striker Marco Van Basten is improving but no date has been set for the Dutchman's return to action, the club said Sunday. Italian champions Milan issued a statement after Van Basten visited specialist Marc Martens in Belgium for a check-up on his troublesome ankle. Martens gave Van Basten a new programme of exercises as he contemplates his recovery from surgery in June. The European footballer of the year will visit Martens for a fresh examination in three weeks. The doctor has said on previous occasions that Van Basten, who required two operations on his right ankle in less than six months, is unlikely to play again until around the end of the year.

Agassi angers ITF by opting out

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AFP) — Andre Agassi earned a fine from the International Tennis Federation Sunday when he refused to play a dead rubber in the United States Davis Cup tie against the Bahamas. ITF neutral referee Ken Farrar confirmed that Agassi would be fined, but he did not say what the penalty would be. The American refused to play when his scheduled opponent, Mark Knowles, withdrew because of health problems. Knowles had to retire while leading his opening singles on Friday because of severe cramps. The United States had already taken an unbeatable 3-0 lead over the Bahamas with victories in Friday's two singles and Saturday's doubles. On Sunday, U.S. doubles player Richey Reneberg stood in for Agassi and beat Bahamian alternate John Farrington 6-1, 6-4, and Malivai Washington beat Roger Smith 6-1, 6-2, to give the United States a 5-0 whitewash. The victory means the United States will remain in the World Group in 1994. The 1992 champions had put themselves in danger of relegation when they lost in the first round this year to Australia.

Christie the pop star

LONDON (AFP) — British sprinter Linford Christie released his debut single Sunday in the hope his vocal chords as well as his athletic talent will bring success. His record "Keep On Running" has been released six weeks after his world championship triumph in Stuttgart, Germany — which added to his Olympic, European, and Commonwealth titles. And the record's title is Christie's answer to those who predict a retirement announcement from the 33-year-old Londoner. The man with more medals than any other British male athlete, will be watching the chart progress of his cover version of the Spencer Davis group's 60s classic after its release Monday. The Jamaican-born British team captain said he enjoyed music from soul to reggae. He has already produced a fitness video, and runs his own personality management company with fellow athlete Colin Jackson.

Dusseldorf may spearhead 2004 Olympic bid

BONN (AFP) — Dusseldorf might spearhead a bid by the Ruhr region to stage the Olympic Games in 2004. But a spokesman for the north Rhine-Westphalia state said no decision would be taken before a referendum. "It's clear one of the main reasons Berlin lost was because it did not have the people's support," he said. Berlin mustered only seven votes in the second round of voting last week when the International Olympic Committee chose Sydney for the 2000 Games. Aachen might also be involved in the Ruhr bid although the IOC awards the Games to one city only. Berlin is unlikely to bid again but Stuttgart, which put on a tremendously successful World Athletic Championships last month, was considering whether to get involved.

Wilder may become next Davis Cup captain

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Former U.S. Open champion Mats Wilander may replace John-Arander Sjogren as Sweden's Davis Cup Captain, a newspaper said Monday. Sjogren was considering leaving the job following Sweden's 0-5 loss to Germany in the Davis Cup semifinals, Sunday, the Svenska Dagbladet newspaper said. Before becoming head of the Davis Cup team in 1989, Sjogren coached Wilander, 29. Svenska Dagbladet said that other than Wilander, there were two other candidates: Carl-Axel Hageskog, a coach from Varjo in southern Sweden, and Nordin Bohm, who coaches Swedish players Magnus Larsson and Nicklas Culti.

Australian Olympic chief wants new flag for 2000 Games

SYDNEY (AP) — The head of Australia's Olympic Committee wants his country to fly a new flag without the British Union Jack at the 2000 Summer Games here. Committee President John Coates, who was part of Sydney's successful bid team for the games, said Monday Australia needs its own national symbol. "I would prefer to see something that's more identifiably Australian," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. Australia's flag features the Southern Cross star constellation on a dark blue background and the Union Jack in its top left-hand corner. Sydney was awarded the Games by the International Olympic Committee last Thursday ahead of Beijing, Manchester, Berlin and Istanbul.

Gascoigne sidelined by Achilles tendon injury

ROME (R) — An Achilles tendon injury forced England midfielder Paul Gascoigne out of Italian club Lazio's match at Cagliari Sunday, club officials said. Gascoigne is also expected to miss Lazio's midweek UEFA Cup first round, second leg tie with Bulgarian club Lokomotiv Plovdiv and is doubtful for the league match away to champions AC Milan next Sunday. Lazio had more bad news when they learned leading striker Giuseppe Signori would be out of action for up to three weeks with a muscle strain. Signori is likely to miss Italy's vital World Cup qualifier at home to Scotland October 13.

Eddery opts for Irish Oaks winner in Arc bid

LONDON (R) — Top Jockey Pat Eddery is deserting Armiger to bid for a fifth Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe on the French filly Wemyss Bight at Longchamp next Sunday. He partnered the St. Leger runner-up Armiger in a gallop for trainer Henry Cecil at Newmarket over the weekend, but has chosen the Irish Oaks winner Wemyss Bight, unluckily beaten by stablemate Intrepid in the Prix Vermeille two weeks ago. Willie Carson, who has never won the Arc, will take the ride on Armiger as Cecil's first choice Mick Kinane has been claimed by Dermot Weld for Irish raider Market Booster.

Real Madrid flop again; AC Milan, Frankfurt lead

PARIS (AFP) — Real Madrid coach Benito Floro, who cursed the goal of Oviedo's Janko Jankovic Sunday, could be shown the door in the wake of Real's 1-0 home defeat.

The patience of President Ramon Mendoza may have finally run out following their home loss to lowly Oviedo in front of 80,000 supporters at the Santiago-Bernabeu Stadium.

Many in the crowd waved white handkerchiefs in protest, a practice normally used in bullfighting.

Real defender Rafael Alkorta was sent off in the second half in a lacklustre display by Real, who are now fourth from bottom.

Already speculation has thrown up the names of Vujadin Boskov, Tenerife Manager Jorge Valdano, former Barcelona Manager Terry Venables, Paris St Germain Coach Artur Jorge, and Colombian Coach Pacho Maturana as possible successors to Floro.

Only 14,000 supporters turned up for their European Cup Winners' Cup match against Lugano as proof that bad results spell apathy on the terraces.

And to add insult to injury, arch rivals Barcelona beat Spanish Cup finalists Real Zaragoza 4-1 with an Aitor Beguiristain first-half hat-trick.

Juan Esteban also found the target for the third-placed Catalonians, and Francisco Figuera pulled a goal back for Zaragoza.

Deportivo La Coruna's goalless draw at Sevilla saw them plummet from first to fourth as Barcelona, Valencia and Bilbao all won.

Valencia took the table thanks to two first half goals from Gomez Fernandez and a penalty from Bulgarian Luboslav Penchev against Tenerife.

The Canary Islanders put in a late challenge with Sebastian Chano's spotkick and a last minute score from Minambres Felipe, but still lost 3-2.

Mexico's Hugo Sanchez has scored four goals in 35 games for Rayo Vallecano after a 33rd minute, penalty against Athletic Bilbao.

But Bilbao had already earned second spot in the table from their first quarter of an hour's work.

Bilbao's Jose Ziganda fired home in the second and 13th minutes to knock the stuffing out of the home side.

AC Milan moved two points clear at the top of the Italian championship with a 2-0 victory at Cremonese.

Jean-Pierre Papin's 20 yard shot and Marco Simone's effort from close in were responsible for keeping Milan clear of the chasing pack of Sampdoria, Parma, and Torino.

Sampdoria's 1-1 draw with Parma Sunday meant both clubs lost a little ground on Milan.

Faustino Asprilla scored an equaliser on the half-hour for Cup Winners Cup champions Parma after Antonio Lombardo had opened with a score on just four minutes.

It was Colombian Asprilla who shot down Milan's 58-match unbeaten run in March and if he continues his goals for Parma, Milan's feathers could be ruffled once more. Asprilla is now equal second with four goals in the Italian League.

Atalanta's Maurizio Ganz holds the honour of leading scorer with five, though AS Roma fought back for a 2-1 win following Ganz's goal.

In other matches, Cagliari beat Lazio 4-1 and an Andrea Salenzi double helped Torino beat Genoa 2-0.

Eintracht Frankfurt pulled clear in the German title race when their rivals failed Saturday to match their 3-2 win over Dynamo Dresden.

SV Hamburg slipped from second to third after losing at MSV Duisburg. But even defending champions Werder Bremen, who took their place, could only manage a 0-0 draw with SG Wattenscheid.

Norwegian Joern Andersen, Maurizio Gaudino and Jan Furtok were on target for Frankfurt against the newly promoted Dresden Friday night. Frankfurt now have a two point lead over Bremen.

Another Bundesliga First Division newcomer MSV Duisburg ended SV Hamburg's revival with a 1-0 win. Uwe Weidemann got the 71st minute winner that put Duisburg into fourth place.

In France, Olympique Marseille's fortunes hit rock bottom when a violent pitch invasion by fans Friday left

them facing new disciplinary action.

Eleven police and eight supporters were injured and troubles continued into the night. Marseille, who had their league title taken from them Wednesday, could now have their stadium closed by the French Football Federation after the latest sorry chapter in their recent fall from glory.

Marseille were losing 3-0 to Metz, having had two players sent off, when violence on the terraces spilled on the pitch at the Stade Velodrome in the 87th minute.

An FFF disciplinary committee will decide what sanctions to take. Marseille already have a suspended closure of the Stade Velodrome hanging over them after fans threw cans at St Etienne goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell last month.

After being stopped from defending the European Champions Cup and losing the French title over the Valenciennes bribes affair, Marseille must have thought that nothing else could happen.

Keeper Fabien Barthez was sent off for a professional foul, leaving Metz player David Zitelli to score from the spot.

In the protests, referee Patrick Anton sent off on sweeper Basile Boli for dissent. And Sunday, the official said he was right to have sent off the players and abandon the match in the circumstances.

Samba N'Diaye and Robert Pires scored the other goals for Metz.

Nantes beat Caen 1-0 and Monaco beat Angers 3-0 in other matches.

In Belgium, 23-times champions Anderlecht suffered their first defeat of the season — 3-0 at home to FC Brugge. But Anderlecht still hold top spot, a point ahead of FC Brugge.

Arnold Scholten fired champions Feyenoord to first place in the Dutch League with his only goal of the game four minutes from time at home to Deventer.

Yet Ajax Amsterdam, Vitesse Arnhem and PSV Eindhoven all had their matches postponed, easing the path of Feyenoord up the table.

Bobby Robson's Sporting Lisbon still top the table in Portugal thanks to Capucho's 83rd minute goal at Farense.

Nigeria just 1 point away from world cup

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nigeria's narrow victory in their World Cup qualifier over Ivory Coast at the weekend moved them to within one point of a first, and long overdue, appearance in the World Cup finals.

The 4-1 win over the African champions in Lagos Saturday means Nigeria, a perennial powerhouse in African football, now need just a draw in the final match of the African Zone, second round Group A in Algeria October 8.

In Group B, Zambia kept their hopes alive, thrashing Senegal 4-0 in Lusaka Sunday while neighbouring Zimbabwe beat Guinea 1-0 in Harare.

Nigeria weathered an early onslaught from the Ivorians at the Suresere Stadium Saturday to go 2-0 up after 25 minutes with goals from Thompson Otiha, playing against many of his club mates from the Ivorian team Africa Sport, and Belgian-based Daniel Amokachi.

Although the Ivory Coast pulled a goal back shortly after halftime, two strikes from

giant forward Rashidi Yekini sealed the points for the "super eagles."

Yekini, who plays for Portuguese first division club Vitoria Setubal, has now scored eight World Cup goals, exactly half his team's tally of 16 in the qualifiers.

Coach Clemens Westerhoff, probably taking charge of his last home game, said the match was far from easy despite the overwhelming victory margin. "The Ivorians played good football but they wanted too many touches on the ball," the Dutch-born trainer said.

Zambia, still riding the wave of emotion after the air crash in April which killed 18 of their players, moved to the top of Group B and now also need just a draw in their final game — away to Morocco in Casablanca October 10.

Debutant Githy Zulu scored the opening goal after 12 minutes and there were further strikes in the second half from fullback Elijah Litana, centre forward Kenneth Malitoli and captain Kalusha Bwalya.

For Malitoli, who plays his

club football for Esperance in Tunisia, the goal ended a miserable patch of form in home internationals, while Bwalya kept up a sequence of scoring in every competitive home match for the Zambians since the air disaster.

Zimbabwe needed a glut of goals to improve their qualification chances and looked set for a feast when agent Sawu netted after just three minutes of the Group C match in Harare Sunday — his seventh goal in Zimbabwe's qualifying campaign.

But 21-year-old Sawu, recently returned from an unsuccessful trial with Liverpool in England, and his team mates were unable to add to the tally and must now beat Cameroon away in Yaounde in their final match October 10 to ensure their place in the finals.

Cameroon, who reached the last eight in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, share top place with Zimbabwe in the standings, but the Cameroonians have a better goal difference and will be favoured to clinch their third appearance at the final tournament.

Stich, Goellner complete shutout

BORLANGE, Sweden (AP) — Michael Stich and Marco Kevin Goellner completed Germany's 5-0 rout of Sweden in the Davis Cup semifinals by winning Sunday's reverse singles.

Stich, the big German hero, whipped Stefan Edberg 6-1, 6-1, for his third victory in as many days and Goellner beat Henrik Holm 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 to stay unbeaten in Davis Cup play.

It was the first German shutout since the countries' first Davis Cup meeting in 1939, but Sweden still leads the overall series 6-5.

"The Swedes were not as strong as we thought they would be," said Stich after his greatest Davis Cup weekend. "We had a good team spirit and that was an important factor to the victory."

The reverse singles were shortened to best-of-three sets because Germany had already

clinched its final berth after Saturday's doubles.

For Edberg, it was the worst loss in 35 Davis Cup singles, also counting "dead" matches. "It was horrible," Edberg said after the match. "I had no inspiration left after they won the doubles."

Edberg's disappointing performance here came after an early exit in the U.S. Open, where he was a two-time defending champion.

Edberg, who this year failed to win a Grand Slam title for the first time since 1989, is now only ranked fifth in the world, matching his lowest ranking in nine years on the ATP Tour.

"But I'll be back," the former world No. 1 said. "I'm only 27 and I think I can still win another Grand Slam title."

Edberg, who skipped the Davis Cup quarterfinals because his wife was expecting the couple's first child, has won six Grand Slam singles titles, two each in the Australian and U.S. Open and Wimbledon.

"It might be reddish in color," said German captain Niki Pietrangeli.

Stich, an all-round player ranked sixth in the world who has won tournaments on clay, grass and hardcourt, started the first set with a four-set win over Magnus Gustafsson in Friday's singles action.

Goellner then beat Edberg, also in four sets, for a 2-0 first day lead.

Stich teamed with Kohnen to beat veteran Anders Jarryd and Holm in three straight sets in the doubles, snapping the Swedish pair's 12-match unbeaten streak in tournament and Davis Cup play.

Gustafsson was replaced by Holm in Sunday's singles because of an injury.

Stich, who extended his unbeaten streak to eight in Davis Cup doubles, said he wouldn't mind having Boris Becker on the team in the final.

"He's welcome to play," Stich said. "I think it would be kind of disappointing for a guy who played on our Davis Cup team all year and then might be going out. But there are a lot of things that are not fair in tennis."

Becker, an average player on clay but one of the best on fast indoor surfaces, declined to play the Davis Cup early in the year.

Asked if the sense of satisfaction was greater for having advanced to the final without Becker, Stich said:

"I just want to win the Davis Cup and that the only thing that counts for me. I don't care if he plays."

Becker was the big hero when Germany won its first two Davis Cup finals over Sweden in 1988 on indoor clay at Goteborg and in 1989 on carpet at Stuttgart. Germany played its first final in 1985, but lost to Sweden 3-2 at Munich.

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## Aideed militia keeps U.N. on toes

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Militiamen loyal to fugitive Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed on Monday clashed with U.N. troops here in a bid to stop common law trials being held under the protection of the United Nations.

The French charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF — Doctors Without Borders) meanwhile pulled out of Mogadishu altogether Monday, saying the city had become "too dangerous" and strongly criticising the United Nations.

The militias fired mortars at the building in the port area where the tribunal composed of Somali judges and lawyers was supposed officially to begin work trying detainees under a deal among rival clans.

U.N. troops and Somali police returned fire and an American helicopter was also seen firing at the ground.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

However, militiamen wounded several people at a market when they fired a rocket-propelled grenade at Pakistani armoured vehicles coming from the U.N. compound, but missed their target.

The Pakistani convoy moved on at full speed, opening fire and hitting a building opposite the Sabahi Hotel where most foreign journalists have been staying.

MSF official Patrick Vial told a meeting of U.N. personnel and representatives of other non-governmental agencies that Mogadishu had become "too dangerous" and his charity was pulling out "for good," after suspending its field activities in May.

He distributed tracts saying that the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) had completely lost sight of its original humanitarian mission and was engaged in a "U.N. military operation which MSF prefers not to be associated with."

"Decisions are of a military nature and priority is given to the troops, without respect for relief workers," Dr. Vial told AFP. "Things have deteriorated very badly. Today there is no room for humanitarian activity."

A U.N. military officer told reporters that faction leader Mohammed Farah Aideed was importing weapons both by sea and land with which to fight the United Nations.

The United Nations has been hunting General Aideed for months, saying he was behind the killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers in Mogadishu on June 5.

Many Somalis say arms, from Ak-47 rifles to heavy weapons, are coming to Mogadishu from the black market in rural parts of Somalia and in neighbouring Ethiopia.

Violence has escalated since U.N. forces captured Gen. Aideed's deputy and financier, Osman Hassan Ali Ato, on Tuesday. Clan leaders have said they will take revenge unless he is freed.

Three Pakistani troops were incinerated in their armoured vehicle when it was hit by a grenade on the same day and on Saturday gunmen shot down a U.S. combat helicopter, killing three American soldiers on board.

A total of 56 peacekeepers and hundreds of Somalis have died in nearly four months of urban feuding in the capital, although U.N. forces have restored calm to most of the rest of Somalia.

The U.N. military officer briefing reporters said Mr. Osman Ato was not being detained in connection with the Pakistani soldiers killed June 5 but that he was "dangerous for the stability of the country."

He said Gen. Aideed's militia was trying to spread unrest from the southern districts where his Habre Gedir clan lives to the port of Merca, some 100 kilometres south.

Militia leaders from the local Dir clan there supported Gen. Aideed in the past.

The Habre Gedir, whose homelands are in the desolate scrub bush north of Mogadishu, probably number in the tens of thousands. Most Somalis, who number six million, have their own clan leaders and show no loyalty to Gen. Aideed — even though their relations with the United Nations may not be warm.

The U.N. military officer, who asked not to be identified, denied that Gen. Aideed was getting any support from Muslim fundamentalists in Somalia.



## Libya ready for Pan Am trial anywhere — lawyer

Combined agency dispatches

TRIPOLI — The Libyan lawyer for two men wanted in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie bombing said Monday that no country had been ruled out as the possible site for a trial.

"No country has been ruled out," Ibrahim Legwell said, "on the condition that it can provide judicial guarantees of a fair trial."

Mr. Legwell had previously demanded that a trial of the Lockerbie suspects be held in a "neutral third country," preferably an Arab or Mediterranean nation or Switzerland.

Libya has repeatedly refused U.S. and British demands that Abdel Baset Ali Mohammad Al Mewgrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah be extradited to face trial for the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died.

Mr. Legwell also said Libya had received generally "encouraging" responses from U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to a set of questions about how an eventual trial would be handled.

"Certain points still need clarification," he added.

Because of its refusal to extradite the pair to either Britain or the United States, both of which have indictments pending, by a deadline of Oct. 1, Libya could face new U.N.

sanctions. Air traffic, arms and diplomatic sanctions were already imposed on Tripoli in April 1992.

"We are trying to cover all possibilities for a fair trial in any neutral country, but this doesn't exclude Scotland or even Washington, D.C.," Mr. Legwell said.

Asked if Libya would respond to the Friday deadline, Mr. Legwell said: "We cannot work under threats. Do you imagine that we will sacrifice the human rights of these suspects because of political pressure?"

At the United Nations, U.S. President Bill Clinton pledged Monday to ensure that the Libyan suspects are brought to justice.

"My government is determined to see that such terrorists are brought to justice," Mr. Clinton said in his first speech to the U.N. General Assembly since taking office in January.

Mr. Clinton listed terrorism as one of the threats still remaining despite the end of the cold war.

It had "assumed a horrifying immediacy when militant fanatics bombed the World Trade Centre and planned to attack this very hall of peace," he said, referring to an alleged plot to blow up the U.N. and other New York City landmarks.

"Let me assure you," he told

the audience, including many government leaders and foreign ministers, "whether it was the plotters of those crimes, or the mass murderers who bombed Pan Am Flight 103, my government is determined to see such terrorists brought to justice."

Libya is also required to cooperate with a French investigation into the mid-air bombing of UTA Flight 772 over Niger in 1992 in which 171 people were killed.

On Sunday lawyer Legwell said the Pan Am suspects were willing to stand trial in Switzerland but could not expect a fair trial in the United States or Britain.

But Switzerland is unwilling to act as the venue for the trial, Justice Ministry sources said in Zurich.

The source said Switzerland did not want to get involved in such a politically sensitive trial. "There is no plausible basis for penal jurisdiction in Switzerland," said a Swiss criminal lawyer.

"Murder by foreigners in a foreign country is not a crime in Switzerland."

The justice ministry declined comment, saying Switzerland had received no notification of the proposal.

Mr. Legwell said he had told the Swiss, British and U.S. governments that the men were ready to stand trial in Switzerland.

## Journalist formally charged with slandering judiciary

By Sama Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times



Ramadan Rawashdeh

AMMAN — A local journalist was formally charged Monday by the state security prosecutor with slandering the judicial authority and printing information on an ongoing security case trial in a manner which affects public opinion, military prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi said.

Ramadan Rawashdeh, a journalist for Al Abahi weekly, was arrested outside the State Security Court in Marka Sunday, one day after the court banned him from attending a trial of 10 accused of plotting to kill His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Rawashdeh was held overnight at Juweideh prison in an unprecedented measure against journalists by State Security Court officials since Jordan launched a democratisation process in 1989.

Maj. Hijazi and Al Abahi sources said that Mr. Rawashdeh was questioned by the prosecutor at the State Security court in the presence of his lawyer.

Maj. Hijazi told the Jordan Times that Mr. Rawashdeh was charged on four counts: "Slandering the judicial authority, publishing news, information and criticism affecting judges, witnesses and public opinion, publishing minutes of the trial which the court had prohibited, and violating Article 42 of the Press and Publications Law which prohibits the printing of minutes of such trials."

Maj. Hijazi said that Mr. Rawashdeh had denied he intended to slander or harm the State Security Court and the proceedings of the trial. The prosecutor added that the case of the journalist will be referred to a civil court after he questions the chief editor of Al Abahi today.

The court was angered by an article Mr. Rawashdeh had written last week in Al Abahi, a licensed newspaper belonging to the left-wing Jordan People's Democratic Party (Hasbd), sub-headlined: "Court delays referring defendants to doctors."

Mr. Rawashdeh's relatives said the journalist was suffering from asthma and stomach problems.

Maj. Hijazi denied that he had refused bail for Mr. Rawashdeh, saying that the journalist's lawyer had not submitted an official request for bail. As long as the case is with the military prosecution, Maj. Hijazi is authorised to

approve or deny bail.

Al Abahi sources said that Mr. Rawashdeh was asked by the prosecutor on what he meant when he wrote that "the judge and prosecutor exchanged smiles," a statement the court found to indicate that both parties were in cahoots. Mr. Rawashdeh reportedly replied that he meant to "show the relaxed atmosphere of the trial."

Judicial sources have told the Jordan Times that they would not tolerate any party or individual "doubting the integrity, honesty and independence" of the State Security Court.

"The opposition and their newspapers are supposed to oppose the executive branch and not the judicial branch," a military judicial source said. "If they criticise the executive branch, which they are free to do, it would be up to the government, not the judiciary, to take any legal action against them if it wishes."

"But these papers have no right to slander the judicial authority, and we will not tolerate it," the source said.

Journalists described the detention of Mr. Rawashdeh by the military prosecutor as a "clear message that the military and its judiciary can and will clip the wings of the press," as one of them put it.

Al Abahi and other newspaper sources said that violating press laws was the responsibility of the Ministry of Information and its Press and Publications Department. But the military prosecution said it was basing its action on the penal code, and not the press laws.

Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar could not be reached on Monday for comment on the issue.

In its statement on Sunday, Al Abahi described the detention of its reporter as a "dangerous step which contradicts Jordan's democratic trend, a blow to freedom of expression and a threat to every journalist who practises professional and credible coverage."

## COLUMN

### Transplant of umbilical cord blood shows promise

NEW YORK (AP) — A pioneering transplant of umbilical cord blood into a three-year-old boy with leukemia has taken root, boosting hopes for an alternative for patients who need new bone marrow, a researcher says. Blood cells given to Derrick Pritchard on Aug. 24 at the Duke University Medical Centre in Durham, N.C., have replaced the boy's marrow, which was destroyed by treatment for leukemia, said Duke's Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg. Transplants of cord blood, which is drained from the placenta after birth, have been done before, but Derrick's is significant because the blood came not from a newborn sibling, but from a specialised blood bank. Derrick's transplant appears to be the first in the world to use blood from an unrelated donor and follow standard procedures of Western medicine, said Dr. John Wagner of the University of Minnesota, who keeps an international registry of cord blood transplants. Reports of similar procedures in China are still sketchy, he said. It will take a couple years to know if Derrick's leukemia is in long-term remission, but for now, "the fact that this cord blood could make his bone marrow grow is really very important," Dr. Kurtzberg said. Sibling blood is generally used to improve the chances for a good match. But if donations from unrelated newborns can work, too, cord blood may prove useful when patients have no suitable relative to donate the blood or marrow. And that is most of the time. Marrow transplants from unrelated donors work about half the time.

### Attack scare stirs poetry in Russian parliament

MOSCOW (R) — Russian deputies read poetry to each other or slept in their seats, their heads resting on gas mask cases, as they awaited an assault on the White House in the early hours of Monday. By dawn, the attack had not come but deputies in all-night session emerged euphoric from hours of tense waiting, some proclaiming boldly that victory was theirs. "What compromise can there be for us when we are the victors?" asked Deputy Georgy Sorokin from the podium. Hours earlier, an air of fatalism had hung over the chamber following Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov's announcement that an attack by elite pro-Yeltsin Omon forces was imminent. One nationalist deputy read a soulful treatise on the art of betrayal, written by 19th century poet Alexander Pushkin, to about 70 bleary-eyed colleagues slumped in the debating chamber. The deputy felt betrayed not by a faithless lover but by a president, Boris Yeltsin, bent on abolishing parliament. Some of his audience listened dreamily in the cold while others laid out their hastily-issued gas mask cases on the folding tables in front of them and rested their heads.

### Clinton nixes Coquilles St Jacques, Cheesecake

NEW YORK (R) — Burger-loving President Bill Clinton, pitching his health plan at a diner in the Borough of Queens Sunday, took his wife's diet advice and ignored the specially prepared Coquilles St Jacques and Cheesecake. When the chief executive made his menu selections, in diner vernacular, it was "hold the fries and hold the mayo" (French fries and mayonnaise, for the uninitiated). "He said he only wanted a Turkey club on toast. He made a point of saying he wanted it dry — no mayo," said Michael Riganos, 32, one of the owners of the Future Diner. "He could have ordered any of the 76 pasta dishes on the menu or 1,500 other things..." Mr. Riganos added. But with the first family on a mealtime health kick he didn't and two dishes specially prepared by chef Socrates Fokas, 38, were ignored. Mr. Fokas had cooked up Coquilles St Jacques, a rich, creamy scallop dish, and a chocolate cheesecake. For Mr. Clinton it was his second trip to the diner. He had visited the diner last year as a candidate while gaining a reputation as a fast-food lover.

## Not many Jordanians believe women can become successful politicians, poll finds

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Only around one-third of Jordanians believe that women parliamentarians would serve them better and one-fifth believes that the presence of a female deputy in the Lower House of Parliament would guarantee the rights of women, according to the results of a poll released Monday.

The poll, carried out by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, appeared to confirm a general perception among Jordanian men and women that females are less capable of decision-making, rational thinking and political work, according to Musa Shteivi, one of two researchers who conducted the survey.

Dr. Shteivi and co-researcher Amal Daghestani — both of the Centre for Strategic Studies — presented the findings of the survey at a conference on the "role of women in the political process" (see page 3).

Dr. Shteivi and Dr. Daghestani said among the major findings of the July 26-Aug. 6 poll, which covered 2,250 men and women in Jordan's eight governorates, were:

— Although a significant number of men and women believe that women are capable of simultaneously managing work and household responsibilities, the majority still sees their main role at home.

— Profession, education and family income level are the main factors that influence Jordanians' attitude towards women.

— Many Jordanians believe that women can be successful politicians, that there are qualified women in the society to assume high-profile political posts and that there is a need for seats reserved for women in parliament.

However, the majority would vote for a male candidate if they were presented with a choice between equally qualified male and female candidates.

— The concept of democracy and the freedoms that it offers has not fully been absorbed among Jordanians. The survey showed that more than one-third of women who voted in the 1989 elections and included in the poll said the choice of participation in voting and the choice of candidate was made for them by male members of the family.

— Over two-thirds of the target audience of the survey believed that women should participate in political life but in a supportive posture such as voting, donating money for candidates and volunteering to campaign for candidates and not in any major role such as running in elections themselves and belonging to political parties.

The researchers said the poll, financed by a grant from the General Union of Women to the Centre for Strategic Studies, had an error margin of five per cent.

It was the second major poll conducted by the centre. The first survey, carried out early this year, was on general tendencies among Jordanian voters and the factors that determine their voting preferences.

Following are highlights of the survey conducted on women and their role in the political process:

— According to respondents, the most important characteristics/qualities that should be possessed by those who

enter the political arena are:

— Good reputation, noble manners, and trustworthiness: 38.2 per cent.

— Academic qualifications: 37.1 per cent.

— General and political education: 31.2 per cent.

— Strong personality and self-confidence: 24 per cent.

In addition, some other qualities were also mentioned.

— 84.8 per cent said that these qualities were more prominent among men than women.

— 77.23 per cent said men were more capable of decision-making, and 77.7 per cent said that men were more capable of political work.

— 52.25 per cent of female respondents who participated in the 1989 parliamentary elections said that the decision to vote and the choice of the candidate was their own. On the other hand, the decision for 35.46 per cent was made by a member of the family (husband, father or brother), while that for 6.35 per cent was made by a relative outside the immediate family.

Asked who they would opt for if a man and a woman with the same qualities and capabilities compete for elections in their district, 68.5 per cent said they would cast their vote for the male, while 21.89 per cent said that they would vote for the female.

— 47.42 per cent of those opting for a male said that men were more qualified for political work.

— 29.73 per cent said that the personality of men was stronger than that of women or that men were more rational than women. Some also attributed their choice to religious considerations.

Reasons behind opting for the female were:

— 35.14 per cent of those opting for a female said a female deputy would be more understanding to the overall situation/problems of women in society.

— 29.39 per cent said that women in Parliament would strengthen their role/position in society.

— 21.10 per cent said that presence of a female deputy in Parliament would guarantee addressing/discussing women's problems in Parliament, and subsequently, according to their rights.

— 62.8 per cent perceived advantages from women's participation in political life. The most important advantages were:

— Protecting women's rights: 40.37 per cent.

— Securing women's representation in the government: 26.4 per cent.

Encouraging women to express their views and to strengthen and develop their personalities: 21.66 per cent.

Disseminating political awareness among women: 19.41 per cent.

However, one-third of respondents said they perceived the following disadvantages from women's participation in political life:

— Family disputes: 47.22 per cent.

— Women's decisions are likely to be influenced by their emotional character, thus, they tend to be lacking objectivity: 29.24 per cent.

— Women's relatively weak personality may negatively reflect on the decision they would make: 27.34 per cent.

— 56.8 per cent cited obstacles that impede women's participation in political life:

— Men's opposition to women's participation in political life: 77.2 per cent.

— Unacceptance by the society of women's participation in political life: 70.78 per cent.

— Lack of sufficient funds: 72.42 per cent.

— Women's inability to coordinate between their family obligations and their new political responsibilities: 68.05 per cent.

— Lack of full acceptance by women for women's participation in political life: 51.27 per cent.

— Lack of ability on the part of women themselves: 49.46 per cent.

— Lack of encouragement on the part of political parties: 46.10 per cent.

— 68.4 per cent believed that women should participate in political life, while 31 per cent opposed to that participation.

— 70 per cent said women could prove to be successful politicians. Likewise, 57.32 per cent believed that there are highly qualified Jordanian women who were capable of assuming political posts successfully.

— 54 per cent said it was necessary to allocate a quota of seats for females in the Lower House of Parliament, while 39.17 per cent said no. The ratio of females who were in agreement with this idea was higher than that of males, 61.63 per cent and 46.37 per cent respectively.

— 59.2 per cent of respondents believed that a woman was more understanding of women's needs than man, whereas 17.12 per cent said that both were equally capable to understand and respond to women's needs.

— 75.37 per cent believed that women can easily manage between their work outside the house and their household affairs.

— 69.27 per cent said that women's capabilities are equal to those of men, but these can only be realised if they are being given the right opportunity to do so. Nevertheless, 68.98 per cent believed the main role of women was bringing up the children and taking care of the husband.

The most important women-related issues which were mentioned by respondents were:

— Women's low standard of education: 47.6 per cent.

— Women's lack of freedom: 42.43 per cent.

— Society's unacceptance of women's work outside the house: 32.70 per cent.

— Women's oppression by men: 31.4 per cent.

— Inequality between men and women: 16.9 per cent.

The majority of respondents believe that the government and voluntary societies were giving women's issues due attention and concern — 75.5 per cent and 76.68 per cent respectively.

— While 49.76 per cent believe that Parliament was sufficiently concerned about women's issues, only 32.71 per cent said that political parties were according these issues enough concern and attention.

— 40.47 per cent believe that these legislations were positively boosting women's role and status, while 31.2 per cent said that the legislations were good but the problem lies in their application.

— 11.22 per cent said that these legislations do not accord women enough attention, while 6.59 per cent said that they have a negative impact on women, and 8.63 per cent said that they do not have any impact on women.